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NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

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IRAQ

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION MINISTRIES MERGED--Baghdad, 1 August (INA)--It has been decided here to merge the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministries into the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The new ministry, brought into being in accordance with a decision made by the RCC, will be entrusted with preparing plans to promote agricultural production both in plants and animals. It will also implement national development plans, apply agricultural methods, extend counseling services, provide the requirements for agricultural production, take part in enhancing agricultural cooperation, and conduct applied agricultural research to promote agricultural production in Iraq. [Excerpt] [Baghdad iNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Aug 87 JN] /12232

CSO: 4400/253

MOSCOW RADIO ON ISRAELI MISSILE BOATS

TA262012 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1630 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Israel has approved the production of a new Saar-5 missile boat. The Israel shipyards spokesman told correspondents that the first missile boats will be supplied to the Navy in 1994. In the meantime the project's cost stands at between \$800 million and \$1 billion. This is really black humor. The Lavi scandal is still going on and the taxpayer's purse is again in danger. How amazing, not only are Israel's leaders gambling on the public's short memory, they apparently definitely think the public has no memory at all, because from all aspects the two projects, the Lavi and the Saar, are twin brothers, really Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

As with the Lavi, at first the talk was of a relatively small boat. Afterward, as with the Lavi and the Merkava, along came the additions; not only surface-to-surface missiles, including a helicopter to guide the U.S. Harpoon missiles for naval targets beyond the horizon, but also antiartillery and antiaircraft weapons systems, antimissile missiles; thus a [word indistinct] and multipurpose tool was created and this is always too complicated and large.

Most experts in Israel think like the former naval commander, Admiral Yohai Bin-nun [name as heard], that such large and complicated vessels make no contribution at all to Israel's security, but it turns out that this was also insufficient. Along came another type of addition, enhancing the range, which would enable the boat to fight in distant arenas such as Algiers and the southern Red Sea.

What is this? Has Israel already decided to be a naval power? To lay siege to the Maghreb and [word indistinct] ports? To close off the Bab al-Mandab Straits? Perhaps to accompany Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, so that everyone will be able to see and be seen? There are, of course, enough adventurers in the Israeli establishment, but this is apparently too much even for such people as Ari'el Sharon. And if this is so, what is actually happening? Why did Jerusalem, immediately after the failed Lavi project, decided to rise to a new stage of militaristic waste? And this at a time when

the national economy has not yet been healed, when the economists are warning against an increase in the external debt, more than \$25.5 billion as of now.

To understand the reason, we will go back to the Lavi story. The plane was sold to the public as a national project; in fact the contribution was not to Israel's security but actually to the profits of U.S. arms companies. In fact, only the electronic equipment was developed for the most part by Israelis. The other technological components, including the engines, were ordered from companies beyond the sea.

The development, the experimental production of the plane, cost the Israeli taxpayer \$1.2 billion. And some \$900 million will in the end go to the monopolies of the U.S. military-industrial complex. And when matters reached the stage of industrial production, the Americans closed the game in order to prevent the appearance of a competitor for planes made by them. They used a simple method. They raised the prices of the components they supply, turning the entire project into a loss.

And what about the Saar? Apparently just the same thing. The engines are U.S.-produced; the antiartillery equipment is U.S., the helicopters and the Harpoon missiles are also U.S. The U.S. military-industrial complex assesses the profits from the production of the new missile boat for Israel at \$0.5 billion, but that is at 1987 prices and who knows how much it will be in another 7 years when industrial production begins? It may very well be that the fate of the entire project will be the same as that of the miserable Lavi project.

Messrs Shamir, Sharon, and others who are devotees of the Saar project are not concerned by this. They have learned nothing from the failure of the Lavi project, but neither have they forgotten anything; first and foremost, they have not forgotten that any project from which the monopolies of the strategic ally, the United States, will profit, must definitely not be opposed because it is only by virtue of the U.S. support that they are keeping their seats. But what will the Israeli public say about the new militaristic project? After all, it paid for the Lavi and it will also have to pay for the Saar.

/9599

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FORMER CANDIDATE FOR AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES INTERVIEWED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 87 p 2

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovitz by Yerah Tal; date and place not given: "It Is Hard To Tell from His Expression and His Greeting What Is In His Heart"]

[Question] Why did you withdraw your candidacy for such a pivotal position in the Israeli foreign service?

[Answer] After 2 weeks of evaluation for the candidacy, I became convinced that there were circumstances which would keep me from filling this important position properly.

[Question] What circumstances?

[Answer] First and foremost was my feeling about receiving encouragement.

[Question] From whom?

[Answer] From the prime minister, of course.

[Question] According to media reports, I understand that Shamir was not thrilled with your candidacy. Any idea why?

[Answer] The talk I had with the prime minister was actually quite pleasant. But one of the advantages that a prime minister has as a political leader is that he can make it hard to know by his facial expression and outward cordiality what he is really feeling.

[Question] Did you guess his attitude and take the medicine before the wound was inflicted?

[Answer] The word "Wound" is inappropriate. Even if my candidacy had been disqualified, I would not have regarded it as an insult.

[Question] Don't you think that for such a pivotal position as Israeli ambassador to Washington, you should have some diplomatic experience, which you completely lack?

[Answer] I don't think so. There are many in the public and diplomatic service in Israel who began their posts without any formal training or experience. It is true that the prime minister did ask me about my previous training and experience.

[Question] Did he tell you that he thought you were inappropriate for the position?

[Answer] He never said that I was not right for the post.

[Question] In your conversation with the prime minister, did you express any opposing views?

[Answer] The talks did not deal with questions of world views and ideology, but, of course, the Middle East situation and the peace process were discussed.

[Question] Did you favor the international conference?

[Answer] The term "international conference" was not mentioned at all in my talk with the prime minister.

[Question] Then what viewpoint towards the peace process did you express in the talk?

[Answer] I said that I believed that, in the short run, it is necessary and possible to work out an intermediate settlement with Jordan.

[Question] Could this be what ruined your chances with Shamir?

[Answer] I have already told you that I was the one to withdraw my candidacy, and I did this because of the time and circumstances which surrounded the anticipated confirmation.

[Question] Do you believe that you could have filled the post?

[Answer] If I had not believed that I could do it, I would never have presented myself as a candidate. What convinced me to withdraw was not my lack of confidence in being able to fill the position but, rather, the process of confirmation itself.

[Question] Was the fact that Shimon Peres proposed you for the position a stumbling block in this case?

[Answer] I prefer the version that the situation that brought about my candidacy also made it impossible.

[Question] You are answering like a diplomat.

[Answer] Perhaps I will finally get good at it.

[Question] Have you thought how you would have navigated in your position in Washington, if you had attained it, when those sending you--the prime minister and the foreign minister--are on such different wave lengths?

[Answer] I considered that at an early stage, when the post was first proposed to me. And I came to the conclusion that I could overcome that technical problem in the same way that hundreds of Israeli diplomats all over the world have overcome it. If I had been given the go-ahead, I could have worked out this difficulty.

[Question] Do you think your individual case will discourage people in academia from turning to public service and that the end result will be further isolation in the "academic ivory tower"?

[Answer] I hope not. I also do not think that the current situation is one of isolation. Quite a few of my colleagues in my university and in others are filling and have filled public and political positions.

[Question] And many also got burned and went back to academia.

[Answer] For myself, I do not feel burned. I am not saying that these 2 weeks have been the easiest in my life, but they have been important and informative. One of the advantages that an academic who goes into public service has is that he has somewhere to return to.

[Question] Are you disappointed or embittered?

[Answer] I wouldn't use such expressions. But I will say that I hope I will be given more realistic opportunities in the future.

[Question] For example, when the Alignment controls the government again?

[Answer] There is no point in talking about specifics.

[Question] Would the fact that you are a Middle East expert be helpful in advancing the process of peace in the Middle East if you had gotten the position?

[Answer] The process of peace is so central and complex that its advance is not a matter of the work of a single ambassador but, rather, the work of an entire political leadership. But I could have definitely helped.

[Question] By trying, for example, to bring in Syria, which is your special area of expertise, into the round of peace talks?

[Answer] The job of an Israeli ambassador to Washington is, first of all, to deal with U.S.-Israeli relations. But the broader the abilities a person in this position has, the more functions he can fulfill in keeping with those abilities.

[Question] Given the mess that has characterized relations between Israel and the United States recently, wouldn't it be better for the Israeli ambassador to Washington to have legal expertise?

[Answer] Legal experience wouldn't hurt, but I don't think that legal questions are really at the bottom of relations between the United States and Israel.

[Question] Was an attempt made to convince you to change your mind and continue your candidacy for the position?

[Answer] Several attempts were made last weekend.

[Question] Including an attempt by Shimon Peres?

[Answer] I don't see any need to mention names.

9348/12851

CSO: 4423/36

PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM MOVEMENT DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 May 87 p 3

[Article by Ron Kaslo: "Reform Jews in Israel, Part I: The Beginning of the Revolution"]

[Text] They do not like the name "Reform." All the leaders of the movement with whom I met, community workers and rabbis alike, except Rabbi Richard (Asher) Hirsh, the secretary general of the world headquarters of the movement, protested against the use of this word to describe their movement in Israel. They preferred the official name: "Progressive Judaism Movement." They pointed out the differences between the movement in Israel and the one in the United States. There were even those who argued that in Israel the movement was an entirely new one. "In our movement," they said, "you won't find a philanderer in the synagogue or a ceremony in which a rabbi and a priest officiate at the same time."

They are probably right. There are noticeable differences between the Reform (or Progressive) congregation in Israel and her elder sister in the United States, just as there are differences between one congregation and another and between one Reform congregation and another in every country and within Israel itself. In every country where there is a Reform Judaism movement, prayers are conducted in the language of the country--whether English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, or Italian. In Israel, of course, prayers are in Hebrew. It is the only country in the world whose prayers are not translated and whose sections are just like those heard in Orthodox synagogues. The order of the prayers used in Israel, which are worked on by the rabbis' committee of the movement, is different from that used abroad and is more like the order of the Orthodox prayers. And the Reform synagogue in Israel is not like that in the United States. For example, it is not a community center or a social gathering place for members, mainly because of its lack of resources.

Beyond all these differences, emanating from this opposition to the original name of the movement, is the smell of defensiveness. Apparently, the attacks in Israel by the Orthodox on the Reform "aberration"--attacks which are repeated every time the legal question arises of who is a Jew or the registration of converts--have bothered the Reform activists in Israel to some degree. It appears that many of them are ashamed of the origins of

the movement in Israel. It is as though they believe that this is a religious cult on the fringes of the Jewish world rather than one of the two main movements, Reform and Conservative, which far outnumber the Orthodox movement.

This is apparently one of the results of the revolution that took place within the Reform movement in Israel in recent years, a revolution involving the takeover by Israelis of the movement's institutions and replacing the original leadership which came from abroad, especially from English-speaking countries. Unlike their predecessors, these new leaders were born and grew up in Israel, and here the Orthodoxy is accustomed to unlimited control.

This revolution, however, also has its positive side, which outweighs the negative. Despite its modest clothing, the nucleus of another Jewish religious movement is being established in Israel. It is aimed at all those who are not ready to accept the rigidity of the official religion but are not ready to break away entirely from their religious heritage. Perhaps this is a nucleus which will bode well for the future.

Last Friday, in the late afternoon, about 60 people met at the high school in Ramat HaSharon in the meeting hall which had been turned into a synagogue for this purpose. Most were 30 to 50 years old, a few were older, and some were children. Some of the children had just taken part in a bar mitzva class. Ten of the children in the congregation were preparing for their bar mitzvas, which would take place in a few weeks.

The chairs were set up in a semi-circle around a table. The table was covered with a white tablecloth, in the center of which were Shabbat candles ready to be lit. Behind the table was the holy ark, and inside it were the Torah scrolls of the community. On either side of the table were two podiums for those leading the service. The rabbi of the community, Yehoram Mazor, led the service at one of them. Mazor is a young man, 39 years old, with a short, carefully trimmed beard, wearing a skullcap on his head and a prayer shawl around his shoulders. A boy stood at the other podium. His name was Guy. In a week he would celebrate his bar mitzva in this synagogue. That is the reason he was being honored now by getting to read part of the prayers.

After blessing those members of the congregation who had returned after a 1- or 2-month stay abroad, the rabbi presented a sermon on the portion of the week. He spoke of the jubilee and of the year of release. He explained the need for the year of letting the land lie fallow in the old days of primitive agriculture and dropped a heavy hint about the obsolescence of tradition in our time. He explained that reality forced even our forefathers to forego keeping the jubilee.

When he moved on to the prayers, the rabbi announced the page number for each in the prayer book which everyone held. The prayers were recited together, mostly in songs with various Israeli melodies. Alongside traditional melodies

were songs of Israeli poets and even songs from youth movements which have some relationship to Shabbat. As was mentioned, the congregation all sang. Men and women sat together.

After the prayers came the announcements by the head of the congregation committee and by Rabbi Mazor concerning the weekly events and prayers for next Friday night. Those would be special prayers dedicated to Jerusalem Day, the rabbi said. He also mentioned Guy's bar mitzva. Everyone gathered around a side table with glasses of wine, pieces of cake, and two Shabbat Hala loaves. The rabbi blessed the wine and they all drank. Again there was joint singing, this time: "How good it is and pleasant when brothers sit together." And the event became a source of social gathering. One of the women, a member of the congregation committee, told me that she and her husband had joined the congregation just 2 years ago. "We are secular people, and the words of the prayers mean nothing to us. But we felt the need for spiritual dimension to our Jewish identify," she explained.

According to Rabbi Mazor, this was a typical Friday night service, which takes place every week. And the number of participants was more or less the same as in most weeks. The congregation consists of 65 families and over 100 people (there are also single-parent families, he explained). The registration is not just a formality. Each family pays fees of about \$80. Despite the number registered, on the High Holy Days, the little hall bursts with people: 350 and even 400 people, he said.

The Reform congregation of Ramat HaSharon was established 6 years ago, and Rabbi Mazor has been the rabbi of the congregation for 5 of those years. He was born in Israel and engaged in Jewish studies at the University of Be'er Sheva' and rabbinical studies at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. According to him, the composition of the congregation more or less matches the composition of the population of Ramat HaSharon. About a third were born in Israel. Another third are Anglo-Saxon. The rest are from other countries. There are 15 Oriental Jews in the congregation.

It was getting dark. The crowd gradually dispersed. Most got into cars parked in the neighboring parking lot and rode home.

On that same Shabbat eve and Shabbat day, the woman rabbi, Kineret Shiryon, a rabbi of the neighboring community of Ramat Aviv, was away from her congregation at the center of the movement in Jerusalem. On that same Shabbat, there was a symposium on women's rights being held at the center under construction. Rabbi Kineret was one of the main speakers there. She served as a living example of the relationship of the Reform movement to equality of women. She is the first women in Israel to serve as rabbi of a congregation.

In her talk, she spoke of the attitude towards women expressed in the style of prayers of the Jewish religion. According to her, the prayers were written by men and for men without any consideration for women. This is where

we get the image of God as a male image (our lord, king of the universe) and opposition to any concept of divinity that is not tied to gender. And there is the reference to "our fathers" in the prayers, but no mention of the mothers of the nation. She feels that the time has come to change this version, and this is one of the objectives of the Progressive Judaism Movement.

I did not hear Rabbi Kineret's talk, but she went over all the main points in a meeting I had with her this week in the synagogue of the Ramat Aviv congregation. In contrast to the congregation of Ramat HaSharon, the congregation of Ramat Aviv has its own building. It is a structure which it shares with a scouts' den in the Progressive Movement, which has been functioning for 3 years within the general framework of the scouts' movement in Israel. At one time, there was a preschool class which moved into a permanent structure. Later, it served as a temporary place for a Sephardic synagogue and later an Ashkenazic synagogue. After those groups also moved into permanent structures, the Reform congregation of Ramat Aviv, consisting of 87 families, managed to get to use the structure for itself.

Kineret completed her rabbinical studies at the Rabbis' College in New York. From the viewpoint of the Reform movement abroad, she is not unusual. According to her, 150 women rabbis now serve in Reform congregations among about 1,000 male rabbis. The situation has gotten to the point where more women than men are studying for the rabbinate at branches of the Hebrew Union College in the United States.

She arrived in Israel as an immigrant about 4 years ago after serving as a rabbi in the United States and in Australia. She was sent to head the congregation in Ramat Aviv, and she attests to the fact that one could hardly say that she was received enthusiastically. "One woman left the congregation because she did not want to accept me as a rabbinical authority." But since then, things have changed. The congregation has grown from 50 to 85 families. And she is accepted also among non-Reform people. She lectures at a school in Herzliyya in the Department of Contemporary Judaism. She is invited frequently by various organizations and even for meetings with IDF officers.

All this is in addition to extensive community work that she conducts, including prayers, Mishna studies, lectures on Jewish law, charitable work, and work with the residents of the nearby home for the aged.

The congregation of Ramat HaSharon and Ramat Aviv are 2 of 18 congregations that are now active in Israel. From a numerical viewpoint, these are medium-size congregations. The largest congregations are in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa. The movement has two kibbutzim in the desert and an outpost in Karmi'el. All together, about 6,000 people have signed up in the Progressive Judaism Movement, said Meir Ezri, secretary general of the movement in Israel.

Rabbi Hirsh, secretary general of the world movement and the head of the world center which is being established in Jerusalem next to the Jerusalem extension of the Hebrew Union College (the academic institution with full university accreditation in the United States which belongs to the Reform movement), is not excited about the rate of development of the movement in Israel. "You will have to check us out on that," he told me. It is true that in the past 20 years, the movement has developed from 3 congregations to 18. And in the past decade, it has progressed from 12 to 18 congregations. But this is not enough and cannot compare with the worldwide expansion of the movement, he says.

Hirsh cites a study that was done in the 1970's ("the study was done by an investigator from Bar Ilan, and there is no chance that he was a big supporter of our movement," he said) among Jews in the United States, and these are his results: Orthodox--11 percent, divided into 7 percent members of synagogues and another 4 percent who identify themselves as Orthodox; conservative--42 percent, including 23 percent who are members of synagogues and another 19 percent who identify themselves as Conservative; reform--33 percent, including 17 percent belong to synagogues and 12 percent who identify themselves as Reform. In the 1980's, a change occurred in that breakdown, the rabbi argued. Among the Jews whose parents were both born in America, the proportion of Orthodox dropped to only 3 percent. The percentage of conservatives remained about the same. The Reform passed the 40 percent mark and came close to the Conservatives.

As was said earlier, Rabbi Hirsh is not thrilled with the situation of the Reform movement in Israel, but he is also not discouraged. In the final analysis, it was only after the 6-Day War that the Reform movement in the United States began to identify with Israel. Until then, its leaders tended to hide their political leanings. In the wake of the war and the fear that American Jews experienced during the period of waiting, complete identification on the part of the movement with Israel and with Zionism was established. Part of this turnabout has been expressed in the transfer of the movement's center to Jerusalem and in the migration of Rabbi Richard Hirsh and his family to Israel (until then he had been living in Washington).

Since then, the center has been in the process of being set up in Jerusalem, and the branch of Hebrew Union College is only part of that. Since the 1970's, every college student in the United States who engages rabbinical studies, has to spend his first year in Jerusalem. As a result, about 600 rabbis serving in Reform congregations all over the world began their studies in Israel. Every year 50 more people are added. This is the contribution of the center to the strengthening of Zionist consciousness in the Diaspora, Rabbi Hirsh points out. And within Israel, until now, five rabbis have been ordained for congregations in Israel. Another 10 are in various stages of their studies.

What is more important than educational activism is public, cultural, and educational activism, which is getting a boost in the new center with the completion of construction of its various parts (so far \$20 million have gone into construction out of \$31 million planned). Meir Ezri sees in this activity the beginning of the added energy which will turn the movement into a mass movement. Meir is the product of the revolution within the movement itself which brought the younger generation to leadership positions within the movement this year. He wants the revolution to take his movement "from the synagogues to the streets and from the pulpit into politics."

9348/12851

CSO: 4423/36

LABOR ALLEGEDLY TREATING ABBA EBAN AS TRAITOR

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 87 p 13

[Article by 'Uzi Benziman: "Beat up the Protester"]

[Text] Workers in the Public Lands Administration made their colleague David 'Amar's life miserable because he exposed some of their shady dealings. They ostracized him, conspired against him, harassed him, threatened him, and forced him to transfer to another branch.

'Amar's suffering was presented publicly in a television program, "Free Admission," a few months ago. 'Amar is not alone. Some partners in suffering include Maya Qokh from Thuva, Tzvi Estlein, who exposed the corruption of Shmuel Rechtman, David Niv, who told the public at large what was happening in the company Netive Neft, and others. According to the despicable norm which is currently accepted in Israeli public administration, a conscientious employee who cannot restrain himself when he sees corruption, inefficiency, and unfit behavior does not deserve commendation but, rather, harassment and condemnation. He is seen by his friends as a nuisance, a faultfinder, a flatterer, and an informer. According to what is accepted in public service, such an employee is a great pariah. Instead of sitting quietly and ignoring the dirt and the lying, he gets himself into deep trouble. The committee and most of his friends at work ostracize him. In quite a few cases, he is actually harmed--either financially, socially, or in anguish and even physical suffering from bodily attacks.

This norm was supposed to be connected only to the public administration while the leadership of the country distanced itself and even fought against it. In fact, the Knesset enacted a law intended to protect those exposing such corruption. But then came the center of the Labor Party last week and taught us where the truth really lies. Members of the Central Committee, under the leadership of none other than Messrs Shimon Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, give Abba Eban the same treatment that workers' committees in the examples mentioned above gave to those who exposed corruption.

Traitor to the Values of the Party

The center of the Labor Party resembles the Bolshevik member's court. Abba Eban was suddenly convicted of betraying the values of the party. The

behavior of the members of the center of the party was reminiscent of the dark days of MAPAI during the first years of the State of Israel. The message conveyed at this session was that the party is above everything else, and that whoever prefers some other value, such as truth or public integrity, is out. Hundreds of party members pounced on Abba Eban, supported the attacks on him that came from Peres and Rabin, and saw him as a real traitor.

There is something ludicrous in the behavior of the party members toward Abba Eban. Eban has never distinguished himself by his strong stands or independent thinking. His main talents have been expressed in his ability to adapt himself to political lines which others have determined and to lend them an impressive defense. Remember the message that Ben Gurion sent to him in which he said that when he heard Eban's words in the United Nations, he was convinced that Israel actually had the right to carry out the retribution operation against Jordan.

If key decisions, such as capturing the Old City and unifying Jerusalem in 1967, for example, had been up to Eban, they would never have happened. He always advised putting off such decisions on the grounds that the timing was not right. He was never a hero. Nonetheless, no one can take away his enormous political experience, his wealth of knowledge, and his unique presence on the Israeli political scene. And here came the central members of the Labor Party, and, in an atmosphere of a rabble-rousing mob, they pounced on him, insulted him, and were ready for a lynching. Why? Because he dared to say something that was not according to the party line.

Abba Eban was not a hero even in his role as chairman of the parliamentary committee which investigated the Pollard episode. He generally sided with Simha Dinitz and Mikha Harish. He only differed from them in his readiness to assign more responsibility to Peres and Rabin in their positions as head of the government and of the Defense Ministry. And for this he took the heat.

No One Stood up for Him

What did Peres and Rabin and the other yes-men in the center of the party really think? That they could ignore the responsibility of the prime minister and the minister of defense in this disgraceful failure? That they were equal in responsibility in this matter to the minister of energy or the minister of religion? Why, instead of pressing Peres and Rabin with questions, did the members of the center of the party vent their anger on Abba Eban? Why, when the two were responsible for vital operations such as Entebbe, or the withdrawal from Lebanon or the restraint of inflation, were objections not raised by the center of the Labor Party about the fact that these successes were credited to the leaders of the party?

And, after all, Peres' and Rabin's responsibility in the Pollard episode screams out for attention. For Rabin, it was when he received and read the extraordinary reports which relied on the intelligence information provided by Pollard. For Peres, it was when he shaped the strategy of dealing with the problem after the spy was caught. Whether Rabin asked the source of the interesting material which Pollard was providing or not, his responsibility for the operation carried out by Rafi Eytan, who was subordinate to the defense minister, was direct and greater than that of other members of the government. And whether Peres acted hysterically or reasonably when Pollard was caught, his responsibility for the version given to the United States, and its influence on the outcome of Pollard's trial, was immeasurably greater than that of the minister of education or the minister of relief.

It is strange and sad that the center of the Labor Party of 1987 is so similar to the party of the early 1950's. No one rose to defend Abba Eban last Thursday. All agreed that in his appearance before investigating committee, he brought an end to his political career. It was just like the pariahs from Tnuva and from the administration of Israeli lands who paid for their courage and their moral sensibility with their jobs.

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CSO: 4423/36

FEWER JEWS ON WEST BANK THAN PLANNED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 May 87 p 3a

[Article by Nadav Shragai: "There Are 40,000 Fewer Jews on the West Bank Than Planned"]

[Text] The permanent population in the settlements in Judea and Samaria (including the Jordan Valley) came to 60,500 people at the end of 1986. This was revealed in a report of the Settlement Division of the World Zionist Organization.

According to data published in the report, at the end of 1986 there were 118 yishuvim and 21 settlements. Altogether, there are 139 settlement areas.

The number of occupied housing units at that time was 13,500. There were 1,042 vacant housing units described as "available for immediate occupancy." At that time, there were also 2,821 in the process of construction.

The biggest settlements include Ari'el (6,500 people), Ma'ale Adummim (12,400), 'Imanu'el (4,000), Giv'at Ze'ev (3,900), and Qiryat Arba' (4,400 people).

The report points out a "neglect and basic lack of awareness of the importance of roads in connecting with the region and the country as a basis for a breakthrough for the deployment of a population which is seeking a high standard of living in significant regions."

The report suggests cutting roads to connect the population centers with the periphery in Judea and Samaria to continue with the acquisition of lands.

It is also advised in the report to restrict population in those areas where the significance of populating them is negative.

The scope of the educational system in Judea and Samaria includes 406 classes in 48 schools. Only 27 percent of the schools are middle schools and higher. Most of the students get that schooling outside of the region.

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BRIEFS

TROUBLED PRIVATE SETTLEMENT--The Construction and Housing Ministry is taking over the continued construction of private-enterprise settlements in Judaea and Samaria which have run into difficulties. This was stated this afternoon by Minister David Levi during a ceremony marking the renewal of building at the Nofim settlement in Samaria. Reference is to settlements that were slated to be built by companies which have gone bankrupt or run into difficulties. Nofim will be the first settlement to benefit from this new policy. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that the Construction and Housing Ministry is currently checking into the possibility of upgrading the development area classification granted to some Samaria settlements. The ministry is also examining a plan for a road that will bypass Qalqilyah. The head of the regional council, Beni Qatzover, said that all these moves amount to a new era in settling the Samaria region. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Aug 87 TA] /9738

NEW COMPUTER CHIP--A new computer chip, said by its developers to be the fastest in the world, has been developed in Israel. The chip, Digital Signal Processor 56001, is the result of three years of research by a team of 30 engineers at the Motorola-Semiconductor Company in Ramat Gan. According to its developers, the new chip is capable of performing 10 million multiplications per second, a speed that makes it the world's fastest chip. Measuring 12 by 13 millimeters, and only one millimeter thick, the new chip contains 400,000 transistors. Six million dollars were invested in developing the new chip, according to Zvi Sucha, general manager of Motorola-Semiconductor. The Israeli team, headed by Elhanan Roshnik and Yehuda Schayek, utilized advanced technology and developed its own methods to complete the project. [Excerpts] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Aug 87 p 5 TA] /9738

BEDOUIN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY--A Negev Bedouin has been charged with conspiring with Egyptian intelligence elements to supply them with weapons and explosives. The charges against him were submitted to the Beersheba District Court on Tuesday, but only today did Judge Yitzhaq Shabtay lift the blackout on some details of the affair. The defendant is 'Awdah Iban Salah, 34, who resides in an encampment near the settlement of Rannen in the Negev. The prosecution claims that in the spring he responded to an appeal by two Gazans on a mission for Egyptian intelligence and agreed to transfer and possess grenades and other explosives concealed in the vicinity of (Bi'r al-Saluj). He is also charged with having received an Uzi submachinegun, a magazine, and bullets from another individual 6 months ago; he possessed the weapons without a license, and they have not been located to date. The defendant was held in detention and the judge forbade reports on the legal action taken against him so far. [Text] [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Aug 87 TA] /9738

PRODUCE EXPORTS TO SPAIN--Israel has begun to export fresh agricultural produce to Spain, which is competing in Israel with exports for the European Common Market. The breakthrough for Israeli agricultural exports to Spain came from "Agrexco," which exported last year about \$500,000 worth of agricultural produce. This year, the exports will double. In order to increase Israeli agricultural produce to Spain, "Agrexco" has set up a branch in Madrid which will deal mainly with gathering marketing and commercial information. Giora Gruper has been appointed head of the branch. He is a relative of the former deputy minister of agriculture and head of the agriculture division of the current Knesset, Pesah Gruper. The main products which Israel exports to Spain are fresh dates, turkey products, and exotic ornamental flowers. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 87 p 5] 9348/12851

TRADE TALKS WITH HUNGARY--A delegation of the Israeli Cooperative, headed by deputy minister of Agriculture Avraham Katz 'Oz, left yesterday for a week-long official visit in Hungary for discussions about cooperation in the area of agriculture and commerce. The Israeli delegation, including the director general of the Thuva Company, the secretary general of the agricultural center, and a representative of the main branch of Hamashbir, was invited for the visit by the Hungarian Council for Cooperation. The Hungarians are interested in acquiring knowledge and irrigation equipment from Israel as well as developing commercial ties in cattle. Hungary is already buying large quantities of cattle semen from Israel to improve the Hungarian cattle stock. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 87 p 5] 9348/12851

MARONITE COMMUNITY PROFILED--The Maronites are a Christian group founded by the prophet Maron in the 5th century A.D. It received autonomous states within the Catholic Church, which it joined in 1736. The Maronites came originally from the northern mountains of Lebanon. Over the years, they migrated to the United States, Canada, Syria, and especially, South America. In Lebanon, they now constitute about 22 percent of the population. There are about 2 million living outside of Lebanon, 4,000 of them in Israel. According to Dr Yossi Olmert of the Dayan Center at the University of Tel Aviv, the ties between the Zionist movement and the Maronites began with a school of Maronites called the "Young Phoenicians," who argued that Jews and Maronites share a common historic heritage. In 1937 the Maronite president of Lebanon, Emil Ada, promised Haim Weizman that Lebanon would be the first Arab nation to recognize Israel. Dr Yosef in his book "Faithful City" writes that in the 1940's there were personal contacts between the Maronites and members of the Zionist movement. The Maronite Bishop Mubarak testified before the investigating committee about Israel, and he declared Maronite support for the Zionist idea. Most Maronites, however, have not pinned great hopes on this tie and have identified themselves with the Arabs. [Text] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Jun 87 p 17] 9348/12851

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WATER POLLUTION DISCUSSED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 87 pp 1, 5

[Article by Salameh B. Ne'matt]

[Text]

ON WEDNESDAY July 8, 1987, the government accepted the resignations of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin and Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Keilani. The decision came immediately after it became public that water pumped from the Deir Alla project in the Jordan Valley for domestic use in the Amman area was polluted and deemed not suitable for human consumption. The reports, followed by the simultaneous resignations, created confusion among citizens who were concerned for their health.

Over the last two weeks, the Jordan Times conducted a thorough investigation into the water pollution problem which included interviews with officials responsible for water management in the country, water treatment specialists and experts, physicists and chemists, to assess the magnitude of the possible damage caused by the consumption of polluted water in the Amman area and to ascertain the present water situation in the Jordan Valley area. Most of the people who agreed to speak to the Jordan Times insisted on anonymity. The Jordan Times constructed the story in the light of its investigation and independent research and came up with the following report:

On June 16, 1987, Mr. Keilani was notified of the presence of impurities in water pumped from Deir Alla into Amman. Subsequently, WAJ engineers reported that some water from the King Talal Dam, which was proven unsuitable for domestic use, had been channelled into the East Ghor Canal whose water is pumped to Amman after treatment at a water treatment plant at Zai. The King Talal Dam reservoir's water was for long limited to agricultural use. On June 20, after making certain of the validity of those reports, the WAJ president contacted the JVA (whose president was then outside Jordan), and spoke to Mohammad Bani Hani, who at the time was JVA secretary general. Mr. Bani Hani reportedly said he was not aware of any channelling of the King Talal dam water but promised to investigate the issue. On June 23, Mr. Bani Hani called Mr. Keilani to confirm him that some of the polluted water from the King Talal dam had been channelled into the East Ghor Canal and that Mr. Haddadin had authorised it. A decision was then taken to stop the dam water reaching the East Ghor Canal and the prime minister was informed of the incident. By then, it had become public knowledge that the Amman area residents had been drinking polluted water. But the extent of the

health risk involved was not yet known.

Subsequently, the prime minister summoned a Cabinet meeting on July 1. It was attended by Mr. Keilani, Mr. Haddadin, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Industry and Trade Minister Rajai Muasher, other Cabinet members and former JVA President Omar Abdullah Dakhqan at whose presidency the Deir Alla project was conceived.

During the meeting, Mr. Rifai questioned Mr. Haddadin and Mr. Keilani (who clashed in their assessment of the water situation) and then asked them to resign so as to allow for the establishment of a water and irrigation ministry to unite water resources management in the country. A decision was also taken to immediately cease the pumping of water from the Deir Alla project. The prime minister was told by Mr. Keilani that the decision would cause a water shortage in the Amman area but not exceeding five per cent.

According to well-placed officials, during the Cabinet meeting, Dr. Haddadin conceded that he had authorised the channelling of some of King Talal dam water into the East Ghor Canal and that his judgement was that the Zai water treatment plant was equipped to treat such pollutants as existed in the dam reservoir.

The prime minister then decided to commission water specialists from the British Thames Water Authority to carry out studies on all water resources in the Jordan Valley area over the year's four seasons. Since 1977, several similar studies have been carried out by local and foreign water experts.

Health hazards

According to several doctors interviewed by the Jordan Times, hundreds of people have been admitted into hospitals and clinics in the Amman area over last month and this month with cases ranging from stomach disturbances to severe diarrhoea. The doctors, who asked not to be identified, said that judging from tests they carried out, many of the cases were a result of consum-

ing polluted water. One physician said that there were cases of parasites in stomach including balharzia, ascaris and amebiasis, causing acute diarrhoea, dehydration among children, and inflammation of the digestive system from fungi algae. However, the doctors could not confirm a direct link between the water pollution incident and the observed cases. "Let's say the number of people coming to hospital with similar problems over the last few weeks is very unusual," one of the physicians said.

According to a water expert, the East Ghor Canal water was also not safe for domestic use. He said it contained bromine, which, when mixed with chlorine used for chlorination by the water treatment plant, produced chlorophorm and bromophorm which are carcinogenic chemical inducers of cancer. He said as many as five per 2000 people could develop cancer within their lifetime from drinking water polluted with the level detected in the East Ghor Canal. Residents of the Amman area have been drinking water from the canal since November last year.

The expert said the number of people hurt depended on the shape of the treatment plant, which is believed to have been severely damaged by algae in the water from the King Talal Dam. Phenol compounds from industrial waste detected in the same waters are also inductive of cancer. It was not immediately known whether excessive chlorination, which could have had produced carcinogenic chemicals when interacting with bromine, had reached the point where it became poisonous.

Well-informed water treatment specialists, when specifically asked to assess the damage, refused to give further details. "We have given our reports to the government, and it is up to the government to handle it from there. There is no need to plant fear in people at this point," one water expert said. The Ministry of Health, contacted by the Jordan Times, refused comment on the ground that the pollution problem was the responsibility of

the WAJ. Speaking through his secretary, Health Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Subeih (the minister, Dr. Zaid Hamzeh, was outside the country) said "this is the responsibility of the water authority and not the ministry."

The ministry earlier sought to dispel citizens' fears that they had been drinking poisonous water. There had been an almost total blackout on the water pollution affair since it broke out last month. No precautions measures have been advised by the ministry nor by WAJ. Instead, there were assurances that odour, taste and colour present in the water were not harmful.

Dr. Haddadin, who refused to be interviewed by the Jordan Times, was quoted by officials that the whole affair "had been blown out of proportion due to the incompetence of people involved in the assessment of the problem."

He was quoted as saying that "all what happened was a relaxation in the treatment of the water" which allowed algae and other material to appear in domestic drinking water producing odor, taste and colour.

"They have exaggerated the matter," he reportedly said. "They have made a big noise for nothing."

Officials close to Dr. Haddadin said that eight water experts brought in earlier this year to assess the pollution level had confirmed that the problem "was not very serious." They said the report, compiled by five Jordanian experts and three foreign experts from Japan, Switzerland and the United States had been submitted to the Ministry of Planning. The Jordan Times has learned that another report, which was not as assuring, had been submitted to the government by a team of experts from the University of Jordan.

The British team called in by the government arrived earlier this month to carry out further studies on water pollution in the Jordan Valley area, reportedly because of conflicting reports produced in the past by other experts.

The British team, which will work on the problem over at least one year, will assess the viability of the East Ghor Canal water for domestic use as well as other water resources in the area. The team would also carry out studies on the feasibility of building a covered canal for pumping water from Deir Alla to Amman at a cost of JD 12 million. The team would also study the effects of the bromine material in the area's water and submit the reports to the Ministry of Planning.

Departmental clash

The water pollution problem is seen by many well-placed observers here as the result of continuing competition between Dr. Haddadin at the head of JVA and Mr. Keilani at the WAJ. Mr. Keilani is on the record as opposing the Deir Alla project from its inception back in 1979, because of what he believed was the non-feasibility of the project due to the pollution of the King Talal Dam reservoir and the exposure of the East Ghor Canal's surface water to all kinds of pollutants caused by possible accidents or sabotage. Mr. Keilani submitted several reports to the government backed by expert opinions advising against the establishment and use of the project which cost nearly JD 60 million. Dr. Haddadin, who backed the project which was initiated when Mr. Dakhqan was JVA chief, reportedly ignored the warnings and cited reports by experts he commissioned to back his argument. The decision to build the project was taken in 1979. Work started in 1982 and the project was ready in 1984. Mr. Rifai ordered its operation in July 1985.

Due to the recent decline in the level of water resources in the Jordan Valley area, Dr. Haddadin came under pressure to satisfy farmers' needs for water for agrarian use in addition to providing water for domestic consumption in Amman. The Jordan Times has learned that when the level of water in the East Ghor Canal declined, Dr. Haddadin ordered

the channelling of the King Talal Dam water to raise the water level in the canal, despite a clear ban on using the polluted water. "Dr. Haddadin apparently wanted to prove the Deir Alla project was a success at any cost," one observer remarked.

According to JVA engineers, the ratio of water intake from the King Talal Dam reservoir mixed with the East Ghor Canal water was between 15 and 20 per cent. Other sources put the figure much higher, but there was no immediate way to confirm any of the reports.

Insufficient treatment

The pumping of polluted water from the King Talal Dam reservoir to the intake canal of the treatment plant gave rise to large quantities of organic load in the water which resulted in an upset condition for the treatment plant and its operators. Algae present in the water, according to experts, caused deterioration in its quality, increased the organic matter, and were productive of colour, odor and taste. They also caused increased difficulty in purification, rapid clogging of sand and carbon filters, insufficient filtration and difficulty of chlorination. According to officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which helped finance the treatment plant and train its operators in the U.S., the plant was not designed to deal with water from the King Talal Dam reservoir. Furthermore, USAID officials said, out of the 24 plant operators trained in the U.S., only four remain at the plant. They said that the computer controlling the flow of chemicals for water treatment had broken down as well as other equipment at the plant. "The plant now has to be operated manually," one official said.

"We have warned of this a million times," said one expert, who asked not to be identified. "But no one listens."

"There was an uncalled for excessive use of chlorination" at the water treatment plant, he

added. He told the Jordan Times the Zai water treatment plant was conventional. "In Jordan we need a specific treatment plant," he said.

Commenting on the ability of the Zai plant to purify such polluted waters, the expert said that pollution in Jordan was different from pollution in other countries such as European states and the United States because Jordan's water resources are much scarcer. Because the average water consumption in Jordan is lower than in North America and Europe, sewage in Jordan has a concentration of up to eight times that in, for instance, Western Europe. He said the plant could not handle this kind of pollutants.

Moreover, the algal blooms and the lack of oxygen in the water that was pumped recently through the Zai plant created great difficulties in water treatment and the performance of the plant. The main reason for problems in the plant is found in the formation of a thick layer of algae on and in the filter, lessening the permeability of the filter system. The decomposition of algae within the filter produced gas bubbles. As a result, the filtered water had an unpleasant odor and taste. Gas produced by the algae on and within the filter causes breakdown of the whole filter system. Thus, there would be no difference between treated and untreated water, according to the expert.

The Zai plant has a capacity of treating 45 million cubic metres of water annually. The western terminus of the project is the East Ghor Canal where an intake pump station was constructed. The pipeline extends south easterly towards Amman passing through four highlift pump stations to a water treatment plant located adjacent to the Zai forest. It further extends through another highlift pump station to a terminal reservoir located near Suweileh, then continues to the existing WAJ reservoir R-14 and ultimately joining at the Azraq pipeline near Ain Ghazal.

In March 84, the University of Jordan compiled a full report on

water pollution in the area to the WAJ. In October the same year, a 50-page report was submitted to the prime minister. Since then, four teams of experts have carried out similar studies.

Since 1977, local and foreign experts have been researching the quality of water available in Jordan and the problem of water pollution, particularly in the King Talal Dam reservoir and the East Ghor Canal. Several research papers had been published on the subject. Yet, in spite of the fact that such research has gained international recognition, its implications, findings and recommendations have not been taken very seriously by successive governments. A well-placed source told the Jordan Times that at least four independent reports had been made available for concerned authorities since 1984.

The absence of a single central water authority to provide comprehensive management of the country's water resources has often led to duplication and overlapping in the duties and responsibilities of the various departments handling those resources.

According to a water management official, there are alternative water resources available

such as groundwater along the eastern Dead Sea coast and at the sea's southern end which could be more efficiently utilised for domestic use. He criticised the pumping of water from the East Ghor Canal to Amman. "This process was too expensive, and subjected drinking water to contamination by agricultural pollutants while it passed through surface pipes in the farmed areas of the Jordan Valley," he said. "It also constituted a security problem being too exposed to the occupied West Bank and Israel."

He indicated that the phenol content of ground water in the Amman-Zarqa area had exceeded World Health Organisation safety figures. He said topographical changes in large water bodies in Jordan, such as the changes introduced to the King Talal Dam, had created a suitable habitat for the breeding of bilharzia snails. He said waters of farm reservoirs in the Jordan Valley were also breeding sites for bilharzia snails. He regretted that warnings issued by himself and his colleagues in 1978 on the issue had gone unheeded.

The Zarqa River, whose water pours into the King Talal Dam

reservoir, is considered dangerously polluted. The Marka-Ruseifa area and the areas of east, west and south Awajan, all are currently discharging thousands of cubic metres a day of industrial effluent into the river and its surrounding ponds.

The phosphates industry and its spinoff industries, the tanning industry, the wet battery factory and the chlor-alkali plant are mainly responsible for the discharge of waste water containing high levels of lead, cadmium, mercury and zinc into the Zarqa River. Lead and mercury are highly dangerous to the human body if consumed in drinking water in excess of certain levels. They cause damage to cell membranes and essential enzymes, adversely affect energy metabolism and impair the transmission of nerve impulses. In most cases, the damage is irreversible.

The government has appointed Mr. Mu'tazz Bilbeisi, the Transport Ministry's under secretary, as acting president of the Water Authority of Jordan to replace Mr. Keilani. Dr. Haddadin was replaced by JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani as acting JVA president.

/9317

CSO: 44000259

GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO IMPROVE ECONOMY DISCUSSED

Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Jul 87 p 5

[Article by Frederic Fritscher: "To Survive in the Midst of Sand"]

[Text] A torrid northwestern wind is blowing over Nouakchott. The temperature climbed to 42 degrees within a few hours. The town is an oven, and sand is everywhere. It gets into the magnificent houses of Tafraghte-Zeine, the new residential quarter and the shantytowns on the outskirts. It pushes its dunes from here to there with a predilection for the streets and roads. An "asphalted road," which led to a development not far from the town, is cut off. It disappears under tons of sand. The residents abandon their cars on the spot where the road dies and walk several hundred meters to their homes.

With the influx of populations chased off from their regions by the drought which has been present for almost 20 years, the town is growing. Houses sprout up like concrete shells placed on the edge of what should be streets. But the sand is there and several construction sites have been abandoned. The dunes cover the fences and are already hugging the walls barely out of the ground. Before the hostility of the elements, several owners chose to give up and sought less exposed land elsewhere. The fence of the Olympic stadium built by the Chinese has holes in it. It yielded to the pressure of the invading sand.

The poorest people come and swell the number of those living in the shantytowns to the South and West. Towns on the edge of town, they are perfectly organized. Each wood and plywood shack sits at the center of an area delineated by wire fences, fishing nets or a few planks, taken for the most part from the construction site of the new deep water port built by the Chinese, after the completion of the project.

Rescheduled Debts

These shanties are set up as blocks separated by perfectly straight lanes, crossed by central "arteries;" they are bordered by small businesses where everything can be found for the same price as in the center of Nouakchott: Canned Paris mushrooms, Dijon mustard, pickles and imported cigarettes regularly sold at 50 uguiyas (100 French francs = 1,218 uguiyas)

the pack. The small shop of the ironing man who uses ancient charcoal-filled irons is next to that of the butcher who slaughters and cuts up animal heads on the spot under heavy swarms of flies. A little further, a fish merchant offers small bonitos, sliced tuna or "thiof," especially valued by the black Mauriticians.

Children are everywhere and scoot around, indifferent to the traffic. For these "avenues" are much used. Nouakchott has its taxis, all apple-green in color, the shantytowns have their caleches. There are many of them, their frames made up of large metal tubes with car axles and tires and drawn by small raw-boned horses or donkeys with stick-torn rumps. They are pounced upon and, not trapped by the vast expenses of loose sand which the cars cross with difficulty, they transport their passengers in their mumus.

Mauritania has some 1,800,000 inhabitants, one third of whom concentrated in Nouakchott. The largest part of these 600,000 individuals subsists on the edge of the capital. Former nomads, for the most part descendants of black slaves attached to Moorish tribes, they live under very precarious conditions, without electricity or running water.

The government estimated in 1984 that 63 percent of the population was totally destitute. Today the figure has dropped to 30 percent, but it nonetheless represents the equivalent of the entire population of Nouakchott.

For its subsistence, the country depends on international aid. Annual needs are estimated at 300,000 tons of grains; with its resources, year in, year out, the state can only purchase 40,000 tons annually. As it is, in 1984, the net national production did not exceed 15,000,000 tons. It improved markedly the following year reaching approximately 100,000 tons in 1986. This spectacular progress, due mainly to a "favorable" rainfall, nonetheless leaves the country dependent on foreign aid for more than 50 percent of its needs. Mauritania was recently listed among the least developed countries (LLDC's).

The economic situation is not very promising, even though it is gradually improving, due to the implementation of an economic and financial recovery program (PREF) that came into effect late in 1985. Mauritania has come a long way. Between 1980 and 1984, the per-capita GDP had dropped to 0.6 percent annually. State expenditures involved a budget deficit equal to 80 percent of the GDP, or 829 million uguiyes in absolute value. During that period, the current balance of payments showed a deficit of 26 percent of the GDP, the amount outstanding of the debt exceeded 200 percent of the GDP and its servicing 35 percent of export revenues.

It was in the context of this economic situation that the PREF goals were defined as follows:

A steady 4 percent growth rate for the period 1985-1988; reduction of the current balance of payment deficit to less than 10 percent of the GDP; and balancing the current budget. Agreed upon--or elicited?--by the IMF, the PREF, in any case, allowed Mauritania to make three successive agreements totaling \$12 million with the international organization and to obtain a \$ 50 million .pa

million credit from the World Bank. This support encouraged the Club of Paris to reschedule the Mauritanian debt in 1985, 1986 and 1987.

The PREF is scrupulously observed and the initial results are encouraging. In 1985, a growth rate of 3.1 percent was achieved, reaching the scheduled 4 percent for 1986, which puts it at a level clearly higher than the official demographic development rate of 2.7 percent.

Richest Fishing Grounds in the World

Iron ore and fish are Mauritania's two trumps, unfortunately adversely affected by the international economic situation. The fluctuations of the dollar and the rise in interest rates combined with the slowdown of economic activity in the industrialized countries, resulted in a substantial drop in iron ore exports. In 1986, the National Mining Industries Company (SNIM) was able to export only 8.9 million tons, as compared to 9.3 in 1985. Technical problems are numerous. The rail tracks used to transport the ore from Zouerate, the main deposit, to Nouadhibou and its port is permanently covered with sand. Teams relay each other constantly to fight against the dunes which reform again and again. The development of new deposits, which was to make it possible to reach a 10 million ton output in 1986, could not be started. The SNIM is unable to find crushing machines capable of operating in this climate.

For 2 consecutive years, mining revenues were exceeded by those obtained from fishing which, in 1986, amounted to 52 percent of the country's \$354 million foreign exchange income. Mauritania has the richest fishing waters in the world. For many years, they have been worked, and even overworked, by the foreign fleets, without scruples or controls. The national Mauritanian navy only has six small vessels, based in Nouadhibou. Its movements are closely monitored by Soviet, Romanian, Korean or Japanese factory boats, particularly well equipped and sometimes armed, which make surveillance a joke.

In April, the government adopted a new "fishing policy" which sets the limits of quantities caught annually (140,000 tons for deep-sea fish and 420,000 tons for surface fish) in order to preserve halieutic resources. It calls for substituting "mixed economy companies" for the licenses granted to foreign owners and intends to reserve for the Mauritanian 120-boat fleet, deep-sea fishing with the obvious purpose of giving the strongest possible added value to these national products and obtaining maximum revenue by leaving to foreign boats the exploitation of surface fish.

Furthermore, the new policy gives an edge to the development of small-scale fishing at the expense of the development of industrial fishing. Three hundred requests for the purchase of trawlers-freezers are permanently blocked at the Ministry of Fishing, which prefers to encourage the small coastal fishermen. Like their ancestors, they work with long wood canoes, as difficult to launch as they are to haul on the beach. The only concession to modernism are small Japanese outboard motors that the more clever ones succeed in mounting at the rear of their small crafts dating from another era. Dressed in large pea coats, apparently poorly adapted to the climate, the "bosses" direct the maneuver on the "fishermen's beach" of Nouakchott. The canoes arrive with the last surf and the swarm of children jump into the

water. The first ones to reach the boats unload the bags which are soon empty of their multicolored fish.

Nouakchott is supplied by the "fishermen's beach," but Mauritians are not fond of fish, the country's main resource. They have other food habits and, despite the advice of the government, meat is preferred regardless of its high price.

For a long time, cattle was decimated by the drought, while the desert advances 6 kilometers per year, wiping out the flora and chasing the fauna. Due to lack of pasture land these past years, the herds moved to neighboring countries. The trend reversed itself in 1985 and 1986, due to the favorable rainfall which regenerated the pastures. The livestock is currently estimated at 8.23 million head of cattle as compared to 11 million in 1982.

The PREF devotes more than 30 percent of its budget to rural development. Extensive efforts are being made to promote livestock breeding. A support fund was created to encourage breeders to form associations. The authorities hope to get shepherds to participate in handling their capital through the creation of agricultural or veterinary schools, in order to shift gradually from traditional methods to more intensive livestock farming.

Settle the Nomads

The initial expected result of these efforts is that nomad populations will become gradually more sedentary. The same aspiration underlies the measures taken to develop agriculture, introduce irrigation in the Senegal river area and improve the land. A new real estate law set ownership regulations.

So far all the land belonged to the state, which recognized private but not tribal ownership. The parceling and purchase, by individuals, of land considered to belong to the tribes is in progress. Rural concessions are beginning to be granted. During the reorganization of the SNIM, which greatly reduced its work force with a thought to improving its output, layoff measures in the north were compensated by granting free of charge land in the south. At the time, this migration of the Moorish population to the riverine region traditionally inhabited by blacks was accompanied by friction between the two communities.

The current grain crop, added to the balance of international aid, should cover this year's needs. Another feature of rural development is the fight against the encroaching desert. Projects for anchoring moving dunes are many but means appear ineffectual. Reforestation operations began with the help of nongovernmental organizations, the states or the EEC, especially in the riverine area. The rehabilitation of local species is also included in the Plan. A few years ago, Mauritania exported over 6,000 tons of gum arabic. The Senegalese acacia that was producing it has totally disappeared. To replant it so that it may be cultivated would solve two problems: the fight against the encroaching desert and the recovery of export revenue. A certain pessimism still prevails in Nouakchott, even though the improved GNP, increased state revenues and the reorganization of the banks and private sector bear witness to the country being on the right track. Mauritania already showed its ability to survive in the midst of a crisis, generating outbursts of generosity by the international community, which will undoubtedly continue for a long time to come to give it its support.

SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE ECONOMY PRAISED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in English 30 Jul 87 p 2

[Article by Furqan Ahmed]

[Text] **RIYADH, July 29** — The Charge D'Affairs of the Lebanese embassy in Riyadh, Ibrahim Oueidatt has commended the role of the Kingdom in "concluding better measurements for helping Lebanon rehabilitate its post-war economy to a great extent."

In an interview with *Riyadh Daily* today, the diplomat said that thousands of Lebanese working in Saudi Arabia in different fields and professions feel "at home" in this country due to the Kingdom's cooperation and assistance extended to the Arab cause in general and Lebanon in particular. This had been a source of great solace and satisfaction to us, he added.

"In the absence of any definite statistics on the number of Lebanese trade ventures in Saudi Arabia, it is worth-mentioning that our citizens have been active contributors in the overall development of this country's economic sector. Thanks to the responsibilities of this country, guided by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd, Lebanon has been able to bear with its devastating crisis," the diplomat added.

Oueidatt eulogized the "ideal brotherly relations" existing between the peoples of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

"Because the Lebanese citizens in their individual capacity feel that they are not working outside

their country, their number has not been determined. But, Lebanese immigrants all over the world, is estimated to be around 200,000," he said.

He added, "I take this opportunity of reassuring you that the Kingdom has come forward with all its support when Lebanon was being suffocated by civil war."

He further emphasized that efforts should be exerted to bring about closer cooperation and solidarity among Arab countries realizing the absence of controversies on the Arabian platform.

Oueidatt said his country was now in a position to export to the Kingdom textile goods, ready-made garments, glassware, metal works and handicrafts, apart from agricultural products, vegetables, fruits which were very popular in this country for their quality and taste, he added.

Talking about trade relations with Saudi Arabia, the Lebanese career diplomat said that in the recent past the quantum of trade between the two countries has risen.

Lebanon, he added had been adversely hit by civil strife and political unrest, especially after the Israeli invasion. "Due to this invasion, 75 percent of our industries were devastated. The belligerency of the enemy brought our economy to a standstill for a

while. Agriculture and development process also received a setback because of the uncertain situation and political upheavals in the country," he said.

He also hoped that Lebanese leaders will be ready to visit the Kingdom after Haj to discuss bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

Due to the prevailing conditions, the Lebanese diplomat said, tourism in his country had also suffered a setback. However, it is now showing improvement and the potentials of this industry have been greatly retrieved. Some summer resorts have been reopened to the public. However, he said Baalbeck, a famous summer and cultural resort near Beirut, was not yet open, but was being maintained properly.

Giving his views about the diplomatic club, Oueidatt said, "We in the Lebanese embassy along with other embassies highly appreciate the facilities at the diplomatic quarters. I believe that it will create a spirit of friendship, fraternity and understanding among the residents there. I would also like to express my highest consideration and gratitude to Riyadh Governor Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and Riyadh Deputy Governor Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz for their efforts in improving the city of Riyadh.

Finally, the Lebanese diplomat said that due to stringent economic measures which his country was taking, the construction of his country's embassy at the diplomatic quarters has been substantially delayed.

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NIF POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 17 Jun 87 pp 3, 4

[Interview in Cairo with Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, former Sudanese interior minister and member of the Political Bureau of the National Islamic Front. Date not specified]

[Excerpts] The AL-NUR editorial family was host last week to Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, former Sudanese interior minister and member of the Political Bureau of the National Islamic Front headed by Dr Hasan al-Turabi. He was accompanied by Mr 'Abdallah Ahmad, Cairo bureau chief for the Sudanese newspaper AL-RAYAH. The interview lasted about two hours, during which the minister responded to AL-NUR's questions on most of the issues dealing with Islamic political action in the Sudan.

The NIF leader said that the Southern Sudan problem is in fact a solid barrier against any Islamic renaissance or Arab friendship in Africa. The problem in the South, he added, has been bleeding all Sudanese resources since the rebellion broke out a year before independence and has since aggravated and escalated to a degree heretofore unknown in the Sudan.

He said, "The Sudan, like other countries, faces severe economic crises that impact the daily life of the man in the street. Sudan's move to apply the shari'ah revoked an unprecedented violent and concentrated foreign reaction, and resulted in blatant attempts by the superpowers that dominate the region to keep us from God's way. There is a sharp struggle in the Sudan to resolve the issue of civilized identity because we have the impression in the Sudan that we are a nation reborn. That is an issue that will require a great deal of time."

The former Sudanese minister was optimistic about the future of the Sudan because of its huge resources of oil, agriculture, livestock, and minerals. He said, "We and Egypt possess the essential requirements for true integration. We have continued to work under the banner of integrity for a long time, encompassing almost four or five decades. We in the Sudan, especially as an Islamic front, are aware of this special relationship and hope that our generation will be the one to bring about this integration and make it tangible to the Arab individual in the Nile Valley, whose quality of life will be improved as a result."

He added that the Islamic Front understands the importance of normalizing relations with Egypt, be it Egypt the government, Egypt the opposition, or Egypt the people. He said, "We consider ourselves on the edge of an abyss facing a very violent assault by Christianity, Zionism, and Marxism. They have ganged up on us despite the great disparity between them. We admit that they taught us lessons and made us aware of our responsibilities and of the need to avoid conflict. Whatever disagreements exist should not be escalated to avoid undermining the Islamic relationship that should always exist between Egypt and the Sudan."

The Sudanese minister concluded by saying, "When we began establishing contacts as an Islamic party called the National Islamic Front, we had to have good relations with Egypt since it is a source of education and knowledge. We, above all others, have understood the reality of Egypt despite all existing contradictions."

The dialogue between AL-NUR reporters and Mr Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman then began with a question from Mr. Mu'min al-Haba'.

[Question] Please shed some light on the Islamic Front in the Sudan--its organization, leadership, and objectives.

[Answer] The Islamic Front is a political, educational, and missionary tool with complex objectives, which is not merely concerned with political issues to the exclusion of all other issues as is the case with political parties. Its constitution is not restricted to a social class, a religious sect, or a segment of society in the narrow sense of the word. It is a popular vehicle in that it includes the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, men and women, the sectarian and non-sectarian, the young and the old, the Northerner and the Southerner...etc. Generally speaking, it represents the social pyramid from top to bottom. In other words, it represents nearly all Islamic sects.

The Islamic Front has an intricate and complex organizational structure concerned with realizing its objectives specified in its charter. This organizational structure progresses from local to regional to international units. The same holds true for its seminars, advisory councils, executive and specialized bureaus, and for its grassroots, mid-level, and upper leadership.

The Front's objectives are generally those of an Islamic entity which is committed to the Book and the Law in text and spirit, and which is diligently pursuing the national interest through thought, expression, and means of action already available in society and the nation, or which could be made available by prodding matters to a better and more exemplary state.

Perhaps you know that the NIF is composed of youths who, starting in the fifties, have promoted comprehensive Islamic action that emphasizes the importance of the individual, education, social issues, and problem-solving. We were greatly influenced by Islamic thought emanating from the Brotherhood in Egypt, since Egypt has been the center of a vast Islamic movement.

This group adopted several nomenclatures and endeavored as much as possible to benefit from experiences with Islamic action in the Arab world. Not that we ever ignored Islamic movements in Turkey and Afghanistan or the Islamic movement throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds in order to provide live reaction to Islamic activity. We are interested in spreading Islamic throughout the whole world. As to squadrons, we do not concentrate on slogans and do not stand on form, but we primarily concentrate on the call and give it our full consideration. The cause is what inflames the passion of organization and commitment. We have always been known as the Brotherhood, but we sought a distinctive name during the era of 'Abd-al-Nasir because had we insisted on the name, the slogan, and the organization, we would have been struck down just like the Brotherhood in Egypt.

We, therefore, took the name "Islamic Liberation" until 1964, when we changed it to the "National Islamic Front."

[Question by al-Hamzah Da'bas] Are there different squadrons that unite together under the banner of a single front?

[Answer] We were a front in 1964 then began to receive squadrons from Ansar al-Sunnah and others. Now, after the renaissance, we have asked people to join us under the protection of the constitution that defines the style of the Islamic Front. We are told that some Christians wanted to join us in order to fight godless communist ideology. The Front now encompasses many Sufi individuals.

[Question by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zurqani] What kind of relationship exists between the Front and the Sudanese government? In other words, how great are your agreements and disagreements?

[Answer] The Front is a tool for political and partisan action that is governed by the Islamic path, guidelines, and controls. Therefore its relationship, as a member of the opposition, with the government and with other parties is based upon truthfulness, interdiction of the reprehensible, guidance and support when needed, and advice when called for.

In this sense, there is neither absolute loyalty or coalition with the government nor absolute opposition to it. Our opposition is frequently based on alternatives or second choices.

Students of political action in the country find no single pattern for the relationships among the parties or between the government and the opposition. Certain circumstances may cause tension and heated confrontation, while others require conciliation, which in fact does happen.

You may know that the NIF and the new Ummah party, which are the strongest components of the political equation, maintain a constant dialogue over serious national issues in order to bring viewpoints closer and take unified positions. Such issues include Islamic shari'ah, the South, the economic crisis, foreign policy, and the issue of distribution of wealth and authority as reflected in the contrasting regions, cultures, and conventions in the country.

Whether this dialogue, which hopefully will include other parties, approaches its goals is a function of the political climate. It is safe to say, however, that the relationship between NIF and the Ummah, which tensed up during the elections, has changed and entered the normalization stage.

At any rate, the government is the government and the opposition is the opposition. What they have in common is that both are indispensable parts of the democratic equation.

[Question by 'Isam Sulayman] Isn't the Brotherhood a major component of the Front at present?

[Answer] The Brotherhood is not a major component at the present time. They refused to abandon nomenclatures and ran in the recent Sudanese elections as an independent entity led by Sadiq 'Abdallah.

[Question] Is this why they consider Hasan al-Turabi a dissident?

[Answer] It is possible.

[Question by Mahmud Radi] What is your relationship with the South and its leadership? What solution do you see for that crisis, and to what extent is this solution comparable to the viewpoints of the government and the people of the South themselves?

[Answer] The Front's relationship with Southern political entities can be described as cordial, positive, and steadily growing.

When the Front emerged after the rebellion, the Southern Muslim was its most essential element. NIF competed in the elections in the three southern regions and won two of the rebel constituencies. This transcends the present reality that in the country there are parties that are northern and others that are southern.

Despite the shari'ah variable, which is the subject of constant dialogues and arguments between NIF and Southern leadership, the latter, judging by their statements, are thankful for the Front's clear stand and steadfastness of principle. They looked favorably upon the Front's proposal to federalize, rather than regionalize, the government. The Front's recently proposed "Sudan Pact" is another progressive and positive sign, because it touched all the important bases in a country with multiple races, cultures, and religions, and especially because it represented a solution to the Southern problem.

This Sudan Pact sparked dialogues and seminars both inside and outside the country, especially with Southern leaders in the country and with those who took to arms and are leading the opposition abroad, and finally with the World Council of Churches.

Arrangements are now being made, God willing, to bring this Pact to the Arab, African, and international scenes through seminars to be held in three cities--an Arab capital, an African capital, and a European capital.

[Question by Ibrahim Nasr] We heard and read that there is a move to improve Sudanese relations with neighboring countries at the expense of their Islamic movements. For instance, improving ties with Ethiopia would be at the expense of the Islamic Eritrean Liberation Movement. Improving relations with Uganda would be at the expense of its Muslims and the followers of former president Idi Amin in the north. Your comments please.

[Answer] This question should be asked of the Sudanese authorities. We as opposition, Islamic opposition, will oppose such trends and demand a foreign policy where human rights, especially of Muslims, will be safeguarded within the context of the good-neighbor policy.

[Question by Qutb 'Abd-al-Rahman] You are constantly being accused of having supported Numayri during the period when he allegedly badly instituted shari'ah rule. You are also accused of not taking part in the popular rebellion that is now in power. What do you say?

[Answer] After the so-called Patriotic Reconciliation of July 1977 between the government of former President Ja'far Numayri and the Sudanese Nationalist Front led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, elements of the Islamic movement, one of the branches of the present National Islamic Front, began a round of reconciliations with the regime and shared its popular and constitutional apparatus. This was motivated by their belief that reconciliation is good and that bearing arms against a national authority with which they had no fundamental differences would waste national energies rather than boost them.

Moreover, the regime itself had at that time shed off its Marxist direction in favor of a national direction and some sort of Islamic path. This paved the way for reconciliation, then power-sharing.

When the regime enacted and implemented the Islamic laws that came to be known after the rebellion as the "September laws," the Islamic elements considered these laws a gain and a definite step toward applying shari'ah to the desired degree. As the saying goes, "that which cannot be understood should not be discarded in its entirety."

The Islamization of constitution and law in the Sudan has been, since the dawn of independence, on the agenda of national action. With the exception of the 1968 draft constitution, presented by the Numayri regime at the time of the communist arrests, none of the announced affirmative steps were taken by the regime, despite all the talk about how badly the laws were written and applied.

The Islamists had no alternative at that time but to give their blessing to that step, even though none of them could take no credit for it: neither for formulation or implementation thereof--except for two judges, one of whom was dismissed from his job before the end of his term, before the popular rebellion in Rajab 1405, because of differences of opinion on the interpretation of a point of shari'ah which he publicly criticized on television.

Islamists were subjected to political charges in that regard, but did not consider them derogatory or accusative. They waged their political battle and ran in the elections, carrying the burden of those claims which the people naturally ignored. It is interesting that all leftist factions--communist, Nasserite, or Ba'thist--failed to harness popular support for their claims and fell through the electoral sieve, with the exception of two persons who represent the Sudanese left in the constitutional assembly. By contrast, the Islamic front gained more than 50 seats including 23 of the 28 graduate seats; 28 is a majority in the areas where the constituency is educated.

The accusation that Islamists did not participate in the rebellion is illogical and without foundation. It is common knowledge that after George Bush's visit to the Sudan which ended 7 March 1985, former president Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, under intense pressure from Bush, banished Islamic elements to detention camps on 10 March 1985, only three days after the Bush visit.

This means that the banishment and arrest of Islamists was simultaneous with the Falasha airlift, the reneging on Islamic laws, and the surrender to the demands of the IMF, all of which contributed directly to the regime's demise.

It is also common knowledge that leaders of the Islamic movement did not participate in the rebellion, simply because they were all in Numayri's prisons and remained there until the rebellion was successful and the regime collapsed. However, it is illogical and without foundation to say that the grassroots and middle leadership did not take part in the rebellion.

[Question by Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Rahman] The first objective of the new government led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is said to be the abrogation of Islamic legislation, despite opposition from the Islamic Front and the Sudanese people. Is this true?

[Answer] We don't think that the new coalition government, whose two mainstays are the Ummah and Unionist parties, will abolish Islamic laws as reported. Those two parties won the elections on the basis of Islamic Alternative platforms. The shari'ah issue in the Sudan has become a popular cause in the sense that the people guard the shari'ah and insist on it.

Abrogating Islamic legislation without immediately instituting a more comprehensive substitute, as promised by the two ruling parties, would cause them to lose their legitimacy, especially since the two sects of al-Mahdi and of al-Mirghani, gained political allegiance based on their religious roots. The emergence of NIF as a pressure element and a tool for popular Islamic political action will keep the two ruling parties alert and attentive to the shari'ah issue. When the subject is discussed at all, it is usually in terms of amendment rather than abrogation.

[Question by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi] Is there a specific Islamic experience in any Islamic nation to which the Front aspires as a model? What is your relationship with Iran in particular?

[Answer] There is no comprehensive Islamic experiment in the contemporary world that we would consider an ideal or a role model for us in the Sudan. The Islamic revival through the world--with the exception of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has achieved a state of maturity--is still in a stage of infancy and development seeking to achieve statehood and a productive existence.

There is no particular relationship between Iran and the NIF in the Sudan except that, by virtue of the sympathetic ties that bind Muslim to Muslim, we are interested in them as a Muslim people. After the revolution was victorious, some Sudanese Islamic personalities went to Iran to offer congratulations, as did many supporters of freedom and democracy and Islamic revival at that time.

Since then, the Iranian revolution has experienced a series of wrongdoing as well as good deeds. We, like many others, currently stand on the sidelines, observing what happens in Iran with heavy hearts that damn the prolonged war between two Muslim neighbors because, as the Hadith says, both the murdered and the murderer will go to hell. May God offer His guidance to all.

[Question by Majdi al-Sayyid] It was announced a few years ago that one of the bases on which the new Sudanese government was formed was to abrogate the September Legislation for the implementation of the shari'ah. Would you comment on this announcement and its timing?

[Answer] I doubt that this true. I have great doubts about the veracity of such news, especially since it was first announced by the BBC. Such interference by the BBC is a vicious attack on Islamic shari'ah in the Sudan.

The BBC correspondent actually apologized to me once for blatant lies that they broadcast. We have sued them in order to teach them a lesson and to make the people aware that most of that service's sources and correspondents have Christian ideas.

[Question by Ibrahim al-'Azb] Please shed some light on the Front's relations with the nations that influence our region, such as Egypt, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

[Answer] The NIF, being the country's main opposition group, represents what is known in democratic parlance as a "shadow government." In that capacity it studies, plans, observes, and takes action on the country's problems and its domestic and foreign concerns. The Front, in that context, is therefore interested in foreign affairs, be they regional or international. This is guided by international pacts and recognized principles as well as by certain basic premises which are:

1- The brotherhood of man and of Islam. The international family is composed of peoples and tribes that should be familiar with each other and should bolster positive ties and common interests.

2- Common interests and mutual benefits.

3- The familial relationship stemming from neighborliness and having the same blood and religion.

4- Peace and stability by virtue of the Qur'anic guideline [2:208]: "O believers, enter into Islam wholeheartedly."

To build on the principles of humanity and brotherhood, we open our arms to the entire world family, believers or infidels, in the service of common interests and mutual benefits as we strive for peace and stability. We commune with East and West. We visit China, receive a delegation from the USSR, and exchange views with Western ambassadors led by the United States.

And to bolster relations on the basis of religion, blood, and neighborliness we are open to Muslims, Arabs, and Africans and especially to our neighbors.

As such, our relations with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Libya are bolstered by religious, blood, and neighborly ties. We are all Arab, Muslim, and neighbors. We have a special relationship with Egypt. Our relations with Syria and Iraq are those of Islam and Arabdom. Our ties to the United States and the Soviet Union are based on humanity, commonality of interests, mutual benefits, and the desire for peace and stability.

These are the bases for our relationships with the countries you mentioned and with other countries as well.

[Question by Abu-al-Darda' 'Amarah] What does the future hold for the issue of shari'ah in the Sudan based on popular response?

[Answer] It is a secure future, God willing. It has become as much of a concern to the man in the street as his livelihood, security, and the cares of living. Politics, especially in recent years, has centered on two important issues: the Islamic revival and the Islamic shari'ah.

The election slogans of the three major parties in the country were "The Path of the Renaissance" adopted by the Ummah party, "The Islamic Republic" advocated by the Democratic Unionists, even though they did not formalize it into an electoral program, and "No Allegiance to Anyone but God," adopted by the Islamic Front.

The political address was basically dedicated to the Islamic shari'ah and the Islamic Alternatives. There also was the secular faction whose tactics were to play the cards of the South and of non-Muslims, but it had no popular support.

There were also foreign pressures from here and there, all with the purpose of derailing, or at least delaying, the shari'ah train. But the Islamic revival has the loudest voice, not only in the Sudan but in many other Islamic countries.

[Question by Musa Hal] What is the main interest for the Islamic Front in the Sudan?

[Answer] Society, and especially the economy, is the center of our interest and activity. The Islamic Front wanted to create a living model for Islamic institutions and was successful in every sense, thus subjecting these institutions to vehement attacks.

We ask Muslims to cooperate in successful projects and institutions as a start on the road to non-usurious investment. We have turned towards Muslims in Africa and Asia. We founded an organization for the Islamic Call in Asia which now has 13 member nations from Afghanistan to Asia to Africa. This organization is headed by Siwar al-Dhahah.

We say: this is not the ideal and comprehensive solution, but it is a step towards solving our problems. We suffered a lot in the beginning and we now face the problem of the South which represents one-third of the Sudan. Most of its inhabitants are heathens who worship stones, trees, crocodiles, the sun,...etc. The percentage of Muslims there is very small. The Christians comprise a majority, some of whom are prisoners in Western Europe. All this presents a civilized challenge to all of us as Arabs, because there were heathens and Jews at the time of the Prophet, and we know how the Muslims treated the Jews and the Christians. We have in the Prophet and his Companions a good example to follow.

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FORMER SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER DISCUSSES POLITICAL SITUATION

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jul 87 p 13

[Interview with Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin, former Sudanese Supreme Council member, by unidentified AL-DUSTUR correspondent in London; date not given]

[Text] Following the Sudanese Constituent Assembly's acceptance of the resignation of Sudanese Supreme Council member Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin, AL-DUSTUR contacted him and asked him about his views regarding certain issues relating to the situation in the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], the political situation in the country in general, and whether his resignation from the Supreme Council will affect his continuing to work in the DUP leadership.

Muhammad al-Hasan 'Adballah Yasin said:

"I will continue to work within the party if its atmosphere remains favorable for projecting its nationalist, political, economic, and social ideas and trends, so that we will develop a unified position and a clear view of what is going on around us locally, in the Arab world, or internationally. Such a clear position must be a permanent slogan which we should uphold discuss in our party institutions. It is absolutely not in the DUP's tradition of political discussion to speakout once every 3 months or from time to time saying that we support the Arab policy that believes in Arabism, then for this voice to die down only to reemerge saying that we support the Joint Defense Pact with Egypt, and then die again and so on. The Arab orientation in the DUP is very clearly the one on which the DUP masses were nurtured in the past. I believe that the most important objective we are facing now is to ask ourselves: in which direction we are heading and where do we stand now in relation to our history and slogans of Arab unity and of helping the Arab states? What we are now lacking in the DUP is a firm and clear political national, Arab, and worldwide policy.

"Since we are seeking to bring up a new generation in the DUP, our slogans must be clear, because without such clarity the party will be infiltrated by those who raise different slogans. Such infiltration has in fact taken place."

Regarding his views on the challenges facing the Arabs, particularly the Iranian aggression against Iraq, Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin said: "When I was in the Supreme Council, I said that we have a historical responsibility to help Iraq morally, politically, and materially by offering all that we can. Since Iraq is fighting and at the same time raising the banner of peace, this should make us both help Iraq and seek peace along with it. Despite the Sudan's limited resources, we had an obligation which we should have carried out, either as a party or as a government, particularly since the DUP Secretary General was the Sudanese foreign minister."

Regarding the agreement between the DUP and the Ummah Party to unify their views on foreign policy, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "There were differences between the Ummah Party and the DUP with regard to their foreign policy, but after the second government was formed, an agreement on a unified foreign policy was reached. Or at least it was agreed that Sudan's foreign policy should be satisfactory to both parties, or should be agreed upon between them."

When told that the agreement on foreign policy that was reached between the two parties has not been adhered to, particularly with regard to the Joint defense Pact between Sudan and Egypt, since Ummah Party officials say that the agreement has been cancelled while the DUP officials say it was not, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "I still believe that the agreement was not cancelled, because it cannot be cancelled by a statement made in the Constituent Assembly but rather should be cancelled through well-known official channels, which did not happen...And what about the Joint Defense Pact? It simply consists of a few words: If an aggression takes place against the Sudan, and if the Sudan asks Egypt to intervene, then Egypt will intervene. And if aggression takes place against Egypt and the Sudan is asked to intervene, then the Sudan will intervene. I do not see any harm in this. As for the question of the fraternal pact with Egypt, which has superseded the preceding one, it absolutely does not deal with the Joint Defense Pact or any other pact. Therefore, I see no reason for the uproar created over this agreement."

Commenting on the internal situation in the DUP, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "The DUP masses are still there. This has been reflected in the farmers' federation elections. We as a party do not claim that we have planned and worked in order to win those elections. Those who worked for the elections were farmer members of the DUP. These included Ibrahim al-Shaykh al-Tayyib, 'Abd-al-Jalil Hasan 'Abd-al-Jalil, and Ibrahim Radwan. Therefore, the DUP's overwhelming victory in the federation elections shows that the party exists, but it lacks organization, revolutionary spirit, party discipline, information, and contact with its bases. If this shortcoming is dealt with, then the party will once again become as strong as it used to be."

Commenting on the general Unionists' congress and whether it is regarded as a solution for rifts among the Unionists, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "The congress will not bring about a solution unless it is organized

and a new spirit and a conscious leadership prevail. Without this, the congress will remain a farce. In order for a real congress to be held, all the Unionist factions should participate in it, and each faction should occupy the position for which it is most suitable and qualified. This is the Unionist spirit..."

Explaining the reasons why the congress in question is continuously being postponed, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "The reasons for postponement are many. First, the financial resources needed for the congress. Second, some of the leaders in the party do not wish the congress to convene. And third, some people believe that the longer the congress is postponed, the better opportunity they will have to direct the congress toward the course they want. These could be some of the reasons for postponing the congress. Psychological efforts of this postponement on the DUP masses are extremely adverse. We hope that the announcement that the congress will convene on 4 November is true, so that we will restore the confidence of the party masses in the party leadership."

Concluding his interview with AL-DUSTUR, Muhammad al-Hasan said: "I would like to address myself to the Sudanese people and ask them to be patient, because no government has a magic wand that can change everything overnight. What is required is patience and dedication to production. Frequent demonstrations and the uproar over them serve no purpose other than precipitating a military coup d'etat. I am convinced of this fact--that the many demonstrations which march in the streets would precipitate a military coup. As for the question of high prices, this is not only the result of mistakes by the government's economic body, as some people imagine, because the government would pay attention to such mistakes and deal with them rapidly. I am quite certain that Minister of Commerce Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd-al-Jalil is aware of this problem. It remains for the government to rapidly flood the market with commodities, as this is the only way to combat high prices which annoy the public. Afterwards the Sudanese people will devote themselves to production. As for those who are now outside the government, they should stop talking about the government's mistakes because they were within this government but failed to deal with these mistakes. With regard to those who are not in the government and are distant from it, they must show some patience and give the government 6 months or a year in order to see how it performs."

13305/9190

CSO: 45040293

INDUSTRY MINISTER REFUTES ABU-HURAYRAH'S CHARGES

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Jun 87 p 21

[Interview with Sudanese Minister of Industry Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi by Ahmad Muhammad Hishamin Khartoum; date not specified]

[Text] Charges levelled by Dr Muhammad Yusif Abu-Hurayrah, former Sudanese Minister of Commerce, Cooperation, and Supply, against elements in the first government of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi caused him to dissolve the cabinet and form a new government. Minister of Industry Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil al-Mahdi received the lion's share of Abu-Hurayrah's accusations. AL-MAJALLAH's correspondent in Khartoum interviewed al-Fadil al-Mahdi and confronted him with the accusations against him.

[Question] You are accused of abusing your ministerial powers by appointing your relatives and acquaintances to senior positions in the ministry of industry.

[Answer] This is absolutely without foundation or proof. The positions at the ministry were filled with people who were tortured and persecuted by the old regime and with whom I have no direct contact. I would have accepted the accusations had it centered on their qualifications to perform their jobs. Any objective non-political investigation into the qualifications of those employees and the circumstances of their employment would conclude that I did not misuse any powers.

[Question] You are also accused of inciting soap manufacturers to reexport soap fat in order to dry up the market and embarrass the ministry of commerce.

[Answer] Fat imports coming into Port Sudan were properly licensed and admitted under the bond system which permits their owners to reexport them. The release of these shipments from the port was hindered by the former minister of commerce, who alluded to the Bank of Sudan that they were not legally imported. Not only that, but he formed three committees which verified that all documents were indeed lawful and proper. Perhaps the delay in releasing the shipments, which was precipitated by the minister of commerce, caused some manufacturers to think about reexporting the shipments in order to avoid loss and unnecessary long waits.

[Question] Dr Abu-Hurayrah accused you of undermining his corn export program by proposing fair deals.

[Answer] The reason for his program's failure was that the former minister of commerce handled it from the very beginning in a manner that undermined the government's policy, even though the corn crop was bountiful. This is why we opened the export door to all who wished to do so, but the minister of commerce procrastinated in announcing that step. When he finally did so it was in form only, since he limited export rights to the Agricultural Bank even though it is known to be a slow exporter, on the pretext that it had a large inventory. Had exporters been instructed to only export corn bought from the Agricultural Bank, exports would have been stimulated and the bank would have reduced its inventory and gained liquidity and funds to buy more corn and protect world prices.

The former minister of commerce also failed to make a study of world markets and the factors of production, consumption, and prices. His talk of marketing was therefore sheer conjecture. In view of all that, the only alternative left was fair deals but Abu-Hurayrah blasted the decision. Corn still fills our warehouses and is in danger of rotting.

[Question] How do you answer Dr Abu-Hurayrah's charges that you interfered in the export of oil-producing seeds even though this issue does not concern your ministry?

[Answer] Dr Abu-Hurayrah inflicted upon oil-producing seeds the same damage he inflicted on the corn. The council of ministers had decided to limit the export of oil-producing seeds to the Sudanese Company for Oil-Producing Seeds, which is a joint public sector/private sector enterprise. The company had administrative problems and was in debt to the banks for 134 million pounds, which is the amount of its losses over the previous season. The council of ministers therefore resolved to reorganize the company and correct its administrative problems by installing a new management, enhancing the board of directors with experts from the private and public sectors, and encouraging large exporters to work through the company. But Dr Abu-Hurayrah was slow in implementing the council's resolution. The company, as a result, was unable to fulfill its foreign contracts for sesame seeds and could not sell any amount of beans.

The High Committee for Exports is still hard at work to repair the damage. Dr Abu-Hurayrah claims that a number of former ministers allied themselves with the private sector in order to abort his efforts and subjugate them to the interests of that sector. These claims are false because he himself participated in the decisions made by the council of ministers to save the situation, and then turned around and undermined these decisions. He also misinformed the council on occasion.

The decision to stop cattle exports, for instance, was his alone without consulting the economic sector, even though it was a budget item. All cabinet ministers learned of the decision from radio and television.

[Question] Dr Abu-Hurayrah accused you of obstructing his ministry's efforts to market gum arabic on the pretext of processing it, and by dealing with a suspect corporation.

[Answer] The recent drought depressed the gum crop, causing its world prices to soar from \$1,000 to \$20,000 per ton. The Sudan should have immediately supplied the market with quantities large enough to assure the consumer and discourage smuggling. But Abu-Hurayrah delayed the sale and asked the buyers he met in Milan to meet with him again in Khartoum. He demanded that they pay in advance for two years of crops; they naturally refused, and there went the marketing effort.

As to processing, we discussed with several manufacturers the prospect of pulverizing gum in order to add value, but Dr Abu-Hurayrah considered that to be interference in his work and forbade the glue company to cooperate with the ministry of industry.

There is no truth to Dr Abu-Hurayrah's accusations that there were dealings with a French company. The truth is that a ministry of industry consultant gathered data on the market for gum arabic and the secrets of processing it. I handed a copy of his report to Dr Abu-Hurayrah for his information. The report had information on the French company and its research to mix gum with alternatives and to manufacture and market artificial gum at lower prices. I uncovered the identity of the company's owner, who turned out to be an Iranian Jew working as an expert with the International Trade Center.

[Question] Do you believe that there is a hidden reason behind all these accusations?

[Answer] I think they are motivated mainly by the fact that I had the honor of putting a stop to economic sabotage and the dangerous policies adopted by Abu-Hurayrah. This was accomplished by using documents and figures to institute controls within government agencies and therefore defeat the former minister of commerce. When he could not respond to the figures and documents, he resorted to political hullabaloo, climbed on the wagon of leftist parties, and became one of their tools against democracy.

12945/9716
CSO: 4504/275

FRANCIS DENG DISCUSSES TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Khartoum HERITAGE in English 3 Aug 87 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Dr Francis Mading Deng, academic, politician, diplomat, and writer by unidentified HERITAGE correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text]

Q: You have met the Prime Minister recently, what have you discussed?

A: Basically it was sort of keeping in touch with the Prime Minister and getting his overall assessment of the situation also giving him a copy or two copies of a book "The search for peace in the Sudan" which is the outcome of the Washington Workshop and discussing with him what possible lines of action might be taken by us in order to maintain the momentum for the search for peace and most specifically with respect to the proposed visit by General Obasanjo the former head of Nigeria, who you know was a participant in our workshop and who believes that we should not terminate our efforts just by having published the book on the results of the Washington Workshop.

We had quite a lengthy open exchange of views about the situation and he was very responsive to the workshop and its results and ways of maintaining momentum for the search for peace. He certainly also highlighted the importance of realising the importance of the time factor in the search for peace to identify what he viewed, as the extremists' positions in our midsts who are treading on one another and, in view, endangering the prospects for peace and alternatives that he believes stresses the element of balancing and compromising which should become the basis of countering the extremists' aspects of those situations. So, it was really an overview of the situation and what alternatives to pursue.

Q: Your role in the Washington workshop was described by some news papers in the

Middle East and the Sudan as that of "an agent of the CIA." What is your reaction.

A : I tell you of course it was very annoying and quite disturbing to hear such a negative assertion about what I thought was a sincere and constructive effort to address the pressing problems of peace in the country and to a certain extent it bothered me. But to tell you the truth, it was one of those occasions when I really did not worry that much. I did not lose any spirit over those kind of accusations. In fact, I thought, if one attracts that kind of negative attention in general, one must be doing something significant. The second question then is: If you are doing something significant, was that a good thing or bad thing? It seems to me that the answer to the second question is just so obvious. Therefore, one thought that the problem was not one's problem but a problem of those who saw certain obviously positive exercise, as fundamentally negative. Therefore, if anything at all, it said more about them than about our effort. I am glad to say that as the result of the workshop became known and the comments

on what we tried to do and achieved were broadly reflective of appreciation, it seems to me that those elements learnt that, that was an exercise and attempt of character assassination because they were so obviously misconceived at best or ill intended at worst. I hope they learned a lesson from it.

Q: Let me go back to your meeting with the Prime Minister: Do you think that the Prime Minister is sincere about peace and what steps can be taken to achieve this?

A: It is very difficult for me to question the Prime Minister's declared desire for peace as a matter of urgency and the fact that any delay in bringing about peace reinforces the position of extremists. Because the Prime Minister is elected by a significant portion of the country as a head of the state. And you have to assume therefore, that it is intrinsic in his responsibility to earn a country, peace, a country that could turn to the constructive task of nation building, of development of achieving prosperity for the people and of going down into history as a statesman, who has steered his nation at difficult times to something historically posi-

tive. It will be very odd to believe that a government would want things, other than good ones, for the country. So I have to assume that he is serious about peace. It is one thing to say that one is serious about peace, but it is another thing to say that what is being pursued is going to bring about peace or promises a high degree of probability of bringing peace. I believe that the Prime Minister is probably trying to juggle with all the elements in the political arena, trying to maintain a balance considering all the forces at work. Whether this is because of his deep passionate desire for democracy to counter the situation that has prevailed or because of his appraisal of the opposition groups as taking advantage of any affirmative steps that might be viewed as countering certain popular positions and therefore afraid, that it might be used to undermine his leadership or whether it is simple because of general risks associated with taking a definite position and paving the way to the nation, I don't know. I have said on a number of occasions that we are at cross roads, very serious dilemmas, critical choices are confronting

the nation and with my full appreciation of all the difficulties that confront the Prime Minister in these circumstances; I think there will come a time and I say it is a choice of lesser evils and it is not easy, but one of the possible alternatives that I believe; worth consideration, if the Prime Minister were convinced to come out with a clear definition of the alternatives facing the nation, to say these are the choices between us, one, two, three, Choice one, I believe will lead us to this objective of achieving the unity of our nation, and of strengthening ourselves as a united people with common objective and common agreed strategies for achieving our objectives. Choice number two or three I believe will lead us to more division, more fragmentation, and possible disintegration of our nation or more blood shed and agony for our people. I as the leader of this nation and has been mandated to steer this nation under these very difficult circumstances, I have opted for this alternative and I want the nation to decide whether to follow me in pursuing those objectives or whether they will follow my points. It is a risk because most people may

be misled into following the other way by various forces at work, whether material or religious. So from that point of view it is a risk, but mainly it is a risk that at one point or another might be worth taking instead of having the nation continuing to be fragmented and torn apart by conflict and bloodshed and endanger the possibility of disintegration is meaningless. So it would seem to me, if today the Prime Minister were persuaded and convinced that we should put religion aside because it divides us and leave it as a natural personal belief; and he put himself or the issue to the public; there would be a good chance that he will get a clear majority behind him and therefore be strengthened. On the other hand, and this is very significant, question of his own belief as a leader with his own religious constituency may arise sooner or later. Someone who is there by virtue of those personal qualifications with a sectarian base may have problems. It may be very difficult for him to say look here, let us put religion aside because Islam governs all aspect of life. Secondly it may in fact provoke a stronger wave of opposition to his politics. That could be dangerous so one comes back to the issue of what is ideal?

It may well be that the Prime Minister believes, that instead of making a clear cut choice for the people which would mean a division between those who support him and those who are hostile to him; that there is some hope in juggling and balancing all those factors and perhaps achieving a consensus that would win anybody. If that can be done, that is ideal and most comfortable situation to be in. If it cannot be done, then there will come a time when, either the Leadership will pave the way or take the issue to the people to decide. When I say the leadership should pave the way; I mean really believe the people of the Sudan, while profoundly very religious whether they are Moslems or non Muslims, look to their leaders for guidance and it is why leaders are elected. It is because people believe, whether because of your education or your ability to see in the areas that the ordinary person does not see, that you have the advantage of paving the way for them, and as such, it seems the way for them, and as such, it seems to me; judging even from our own people, that they give you the benefit of doubt whether you will let them know what they do not know and you are clear in

your vision. It is clear that once you are motivated by the good of your people you will get the support you want; and I think all the leadership has to do is to come up with a vision but to impose it. They also have to clarify it and to persuade the people that this is the right path for retaining the integrity and unity of our people.

Q: Knowing your views as regards to Abyei Area and the tribes therein-Microcom of National Unity - What do you think of the present Dinka Ngok, Baggara and Rezeigat tribal relations at the moment.

A: You will recall that after the Addis Ababa Agreement when the Ngok-Dinka thought that they had been very much part of the South in the war and suffered as much as the South and therefore have some of the benefits that the South had including the autonomy; it was quite clear that the central government was not interested in implementing the Addis Ababa agreement to give them a choice, nor was the Southern government interested in getting into any conflict with the central government over the issue of Abyei, I came with a proposal to re-

verse this negative thinking of taking the whole issue of Abyei as a contested area and suggested a positive role for the Area, by giving them more autonomy to run their own affairs, instead of feeling that they were a governed people ruled by forces from outside and dominated by Kordofan. I wanted them to run their own affairs and also give them the chance to develop which would make the area become an area where its people have the benefits of being a member of a special area. Abyei therefore receive people from the North, tribes - nomadic tribes and tribes from the South and therefore become a positive link for the nation and a symbol of National Unity. In theory that sounded fine and I still believe it. It was distorted, it was distrusted; it was used as a clever way of either joining the South and Abyei people for local Ngok people who were competing for local power saw in that advantage for certain groups. The Misseiria saw it as benefiting the Ngok Dinka. Kordofan saw it as a device of countering their whole control over the area and maybe introducing policies from the centre and even in the centre there were people who thought that

was motivated by tribal interest. At worst some people to overlook the fact that the idea might come from the Dinka and misinterpreted it to mean Abyei might have become a national symbol of unity and almost a no mans land, a land that could be claimed by anybody as theirs, because the president of the country had declared it, a symbol of National Unity. It deeply hurt me because;- Many of these people never thought any Dinka could think of those ideas. It was thought of by Arabs to benefit the Arabs. We never benefited as the people of Abyei for conceptualizing an idea that could be of benefit to them and to the nation. It was taken as an idea by the central government which was a northern government, to benefit the Arabs by making them come into the area and claim the Area. It is very disappointing and disillusioning. In addition to that I would say that whereas the Northern-Sudanese had this strategic predisposition to select what they wanted from the program and use it to their advantage; our people had the negative predisposition to look at the negative side and either criticize or disassociate themselves from these politics and just view it as a seel-

out which means really I had no praise from both ends. Now, I give this example because it is disillusion of course. It does make you feel, maybe the problems are so profound, so big that it might almost be naive to think that you have easy solution and proceed with them to implement them. Obviously what started as a Mini little problem just broadened and widened until people who believe that the return to the state of war had to do with the fact that the issue of Abyei was not redressed. And you know how some of our people were arrested and accused of starting tensions and conflicts in the area which as may well be. But what it does mean however is just one has to be mindful of a very very deep division and no little theory can solve problems unless all the complex dimensions within and between tribes, ultimately the nation. I still believe that my conceptualization of the problem if it had been understood and applied with sincerity was a sound one.

What I believe is lacking now we have a leadership of the Islamic Front has a conceptual, in which Islam has a point of entry. A point of entry in which they then have a comprehensive view of the kind of society they want, to

which may be non-Muslim may be peripheral but they are accommodated within this conceptualized frame-work. I think the Umma Party has a conception frame-work again with religion as a point of entry but may be more accommodating; more sensitive and responsive to all the other groups that are quite brittle when it comes to the national Front. I do feel that there is a lack apart from the SPLA/SPLM having its stated goals and ideological orientation, if clear conceptual frame-work which provides a yard-stick for us, let us say Sudanese in general, to clarify for themselves where they are, what they want to do, what kind of influence they want to exert on the nation; what kind of Sudan they want to build. What we tried to do in Abyei was a small philosophical factual conceptualization of how we fit into this whole picture. At the moment I am at a loss, as to what strategies to adopt, but I don't believe that the disappointment I have experienced over the Abyei area is as debilitated one from thinking and trying to act, because if we were to allow ourselves to become so disillusioned and so frustrated that we cannot do anything; that immobility in itself

can become a reason for total collapse and destruction for our people. I think that Leaders ought to continue to act in level of optimism even amid a lot of evidence for pessimism because without optimism, we cannot act.

Q: As there is a serious problem of security at present in the country many of the Dinka have migrated to the North. Don't you think that this is going to affect the customs and cultures of the Dinka people?

A: Let me distinguish between tradition as such-Maybe some people may take that, because I have taken interest in writing about the Dinka traditions that therefore one is conservative in that you are backward looking in trying to preserve and retain the ways and that is non-sense, because we have changed dramatically, and I don't think I hate the way I have changed. But change is not necessarily negative. Despite my writing I am conscious of my background and surroundings.

Therefore it is not the point that you are afraid the Dinka may lose their traditions. It is a question of whether in the process of changing they lose a sense of who they are and the content of what they are. Without that awareness of your identity

your guiding systems;
and resources as a
human being in society;
you are weakened and
destroyed and has no-
thing to build on.
People think that as
soon as you mention
the name Dinka, they
think you are being
tribalistic and you are
being conscious of
ethnic identity. This
is an intimidating ar-
gument which unfortu-
nately other people
think carries a lot
of weight which is non-
sense because if I am
supposed not to think
of the Dinka, then I
cannot think of being
an Englishman or an
American because these
are part of ones iden-
tity and I cannot even
begin to think of be-
ing a Sudanese if I
don't think of being
a Dinka.

If migrating from
Abyei to other part
means that I am going
to look at others and

do as they do and for-
get myself then it is
a disintegration that
fundamentally negates
human dignity and hu-
man worth. It is a
terrible thing. It
is like homicide, it
is like cultural ho-
mocide. And if on
the other hand you have
a reality to face, pe-
ople are moving because
of the war, the next
thing is if you know
what you are and what
you can derive from
that, I think you could
strengthen yourself
wherever you are.

The Jews are spread
all over the world and
instead they have been
more Jewish. They mi-
ght have been threate-
ned by war and univer-
sal condemnation that
they had to spread all
over the world; it
is a sad thing to move;
but if they lose sense
of what they are, then
it is unfortunate.

/13104

CSO: 4500/129

PAPER COMMENTS ON HOSTILE IMPERIALIST PRESENCE IN GULF

EA092005 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Aden, 9 August--The newspaper ARABA TASHAR UKTUBAR [14 October] has issued a warning in connection with the hostile imperialist military presence in the waters of the Gulf, pointing out that this presence constitutes a flagrant challenge to the aspirations of the people of the region for security, stability and peace. In its editorial today, the paper said that this is a mad and hostile situation with the NATO countries, led by the boss of international imperialism and the aggressive alliance, competing with one another to seize the resources of the region by force of arms.

The paper pointed out in this regard that the ongoing military exercises on several coasts of the region, as well as the preparations for the start of the Egyptian-U.S. military exercises on the 15th of this month, are but tangible signs of what is in the mind of the hostile alliance, which is bent on flexing its strong muscles and striking at the will and aspirations of the peoples of the region for security and stability.

The paper said that the PDRY, as it warns against the dangers of the imperialist military presence in our region, wishes to stress that it has sufficient capability to reply to any aggression or provocation affecting its security and stability. It is not isolated from its true and sincere allies, led by the USSR which has always supported peace, security and stability in the world.

Concluding its editorial, the paper called on all the peace and freedom-loving countries and peoples of the world to stand against U.S. arrogance in our region, raise their voices in condemnation of these provocations by the United States and those who follow it, and take immediate and practical measures to stop any further buildup of naval forces in our region. They should also demand the withdrawal of the United States and West European fleets now in the Arabian Gulf. It stressed its call to make the waters of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean zones of security and peace secure against any military presence which threatens the interests of the countries in these strategic and important regions.

/12913

CS0: 4400/250

NEW POLITICAL PARTY OPPOSES AWAMI LEAGUE

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

A new political organization styled "Freedom Party" was floated yesterday by the architects of the August 15, 1975 changeover with the prime objective of establishment of an independent and sovereign state system free from influence of all super powers.

The formation of the new party was formally announced at a crowded press conference at a posh city hotel by Col (retd) Syed Farooq Rahman, Col (retd) Abdur Rashid and Major (retd) Bazlul Huda.

A five-member central executive committee has also been constituted with Col (retd) Farooq as its chairman and Col (retd) Rashid as co-chairman. Two other members of the committee are Major (retd) Bazlul Huda and Chowdhury Md Faruque. The fifth member has not yet been nominated.

The manifesto of the Freedom Party includes establishment of people oriented administrative system through decentralisation of political power, social and economic development, constitution of "ganafouz"

(people's brigade), ensuring dignity of women and overall welfare of children and bringing an end to poverty, hunger, illiteracy and unemployment.

Addressing the press conference Col (retd) Farooq who

contested the last presidential election claimed that they had already mobilised people at the district level and added that their organisation would take some time to expand upto the upazila and union levels. He further claimed that over two lakh people had already applied for membership of the party.

He reviewed the present political situation and branded Awami Leaguers as "mirzafar" (betrayers) and agents of the Indo-Soviet imperialist forces who, according to him, were squarely responsible for all kinds of instabilities and lack of economic development in the country. He said Sheikh Hasina was an Indo-Soviet agent and added that "if we don't pinpoint them, they will sell the country."

Col (retd) Rashid who was sitting beside Col (retd) Farooq hastened to add that Sheikh Hasina was acting against the interest of the country. He, however said that what the government was doing was also wrong. Col. Farooq (retd) said the present Government could not survive if all nationalist forces including BNP could have launched a united movement isolating Awami League. He said the movement would never succeed so long Awami League was there.

Replying to a question, Col (retd) Rashid said they also demanded a free and fair parliament election under the supervision of a caretaker government as demanded by BNP and other political parties. He said the May 7 parliament election was nothing but what he called a 'set game' and that the present parliament should be dissolved. In this connection Col (retd) Farooq said that the last presidential poll was also not free and fair.

Col (retd) Farooq strongly opposed the idea of allowing an Indian team for investigation into the Chittagong Hill Tracts incidents saying that this kind of move might turn Bangladesh into "another Sri Lanka." He said the problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts should be solved by us in our ways and there should not be any foreign interference in it."

In reply to another question Col (retd) Farooq said that all army officers including late Khaled Mosharraf and Ziaur Rahman extended their support to what he termed the August 15 revolution. He said late president Zia first declared the independence of the country and was the first elected President of the country. General Zia was a patriot and nationalist and never betrayed the nation, he added.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1885

DEVELOPMENTS AROUND CONTROVERSIAL DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL

Bill Returned to Parliament

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President H.M. Ershad returned the Local Government (District Council) Amendment Bill, 1987 to Jatiya Sangsad with a request for reconsideration on Saturday the penultimate day of the 15-day mandatory period within which he is obliged to assent or send back a Bill.

President Ershad in sending back the Bill for a through discussion on it. The controversial Bill which provided representation of the Armed Forces in the District Council was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in about five minutes time on July 12 last amid unprecedented outburst of anger by the Opposition.

The Bill was placed before the President on July 20 for his assent. This is the second instance in the long parliamentary history of the sub-continent that a Bill has been sent back to the Parliament for reconsideration. President Zail Singh, immediate past President of India, at the height of his clash with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had sent back a Bill to Lok Shava for reconsideration that empowered the Government to ensure personal letters. It provoked Opposition outcry

which alleged Government bid to intrude into individual privacy, the fate of that Bill in India has remained obscure. Kaul Parliamentary practice, a book on Parliamentary conventions which matches well for its authenticity with May's Parliamentary Practice has not recorded any such instance in its issues from 1947 till 1980.

The District Council Bill had sparked off political heat in the country which resulted in the non-stop 54-hour hartal throughout the country late last month. The mainstream Opposition consisting of the Seven, Eight, Five party alliances and Jamaat-e-Islami are committed to wage a relentless movement until they have been able to eject the present Government.

The Seven-party Alliance in particular has repeatedly stated during the past few days that partial victory would not detract them from their present course of movement which aims at unseating the administration.

Second reading

The District Council Bill will be taken up for discussion at the second reading stage when the principles of the Bill are discussed, a Jatiya Sangsad source told this correspondent.

He was, however, not sure when the Bill be raised again in the Parliament. President Ershad is under no constitutional obligation to convene the session of parliament immediately. He may consider convening of Parliament session some time in autumn.

Political observers believe President Ershad has sent back the Bill to defuse the mounting political pressure. But whether the move will at all pacify the Opposition is to be watched. The initial reaction has been one of rejection. Awami League is committed to stay in the Parliament. If seen in that light the Eight-party Alliance may not force a situation that would call for dissolution of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Baksal, a component of the Eight-party Alliance, but having no representation in the Jatiya Sangsad, has already rejected the Government move saying the movement to eject the government would continue.

Reactions from Opposition

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 2 Aug 87 p 1

[Text]

A hurriedly-called meeting of the members of the Central Working Committee of Awami League yesterday described the return of Local Government (Zila Parishad) Bill to parliament as an initial victory of the struggle of the people.

The meeting was held at the central office of the party with the party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. It discussed the latest political situation, the next action programme and the flood situation.

It said that the return of the bill to parliament had once again proved no anti-people step could be permanent in the face of the united strength of the people and the authoritarian rules were bound to bow down to the movement of the struggle.

Opposition political parties in their reaction to the government's decision of sending back the District Council Bill to the parliament said the move was aimed at diluting the ongoing movement and forestalling a united and intensified movement to overthrow the 'autocratic government'.

In separate statements to the press yesterday, they expressed their firm determination to carry forward the movement aimed at toppling the government and said no deceptive tactics would dissuade them from carrying on the movement.

Bakul said the government was compelled to send back the bill to the parliament in the face of stiff resistance by the people. It said the movement grew up demanding resig-

nation of the President, and on issues concerning denationalisation, holding companies, land development tax, railfare, tuition fees and fees at the hospitals. People from all walks of life expressed their support to the movement and in carrying on if they took to the streets and at least 13 persons sacrificed their lives and a large number of political leaders and workers were arrested.

The statement said the movement was still on and sending back the bill to the parliament for review would not stop it.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Khalequzzaman), in a statement, termed the announcement about sending back the District Council Bill to the parliament for review as a conspiracy against the ongoing movement and said it was made at a time when the people's movement demanding resignation of the government and handing over of power to a neutral caretaker government reached its peak.

The statement said the announcement would not diffuse the movement and it would be an act of treachery if any party backed out from the movement at this stage.

Bangladesh Muslim League (Kader) said the government was compelled to bow down before the people who unitedly resisted the attempt to militarise politics. It termed returning the bill as a partial victory of the people's movement and hoped undemocratic rule would surely come to an end.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1884

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO BRITAIN--Maj Gen (Retd) K.M. Safiullah, BU, new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK, arrived in London on July 30, reports BSS. He was received at the airport by the senior officials of the High Commission. Gen Safiullah will present his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II soon, according to an official message received in Dhaka. Prior to this assignment in the UK, Gen Safiullah was the Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden. He was concurrently accredited to Norway and Denmark. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Aug 87 p 3] /9317

JATIYA SECRETARY GENERAL--Chairman of Jatiya Party President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Monday appointed Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain as the Secretary General of the party, reports BSS. Shah Moazzem succeeds Minister Mahmudul Hasan in the office of Secretary General of the party. Meanwhile, Shah Moazzem Hossain on Monday morning called on the President and party chief at his residence. Outgoing Secretary General Mahmudul Hasan was also present. Welcoming the new Secretary General of JP, Party Chairman President Ershad directed him to revitalise the party to carry forward the politics of development and progress. He hoped that the incumbent Secretary General will be able to infuse high spirit among the workers and leaders of the party to further strengthen the organisation. The President appreciated the contributions made by the outgoing Secretary General toward the growth of the party. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jul 87 pp 1, 8] /9317

HOME MINISTRY PRESS NOTE--The Ministry of Home Affairs in a Press Note issued in Dhaka on Saturday night termed a news item published in the "Banglar Bani" in its issue of July 25 as false, concocted, baseless, motivated and irresponsible, reports BSS. The following is the text of the Press Note: "Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the "Banglar Bani" issue of July 25 with the heading "Jatiya Partir Mastani." The news item said that fire-arms had been delivered from the Ministry of Home Affairs to a special force for resisting the hartal. The news item is totally false, concocted, baseless, motivated and irresponsible. For information of all, the Government wants to categorically make it known that no arms were delivered to anyone from the Ministry of Home Affairs. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jul 87 p 1] /9317

GOVERNMENT RESIGNATION DEMANDED--The BNP Secretary-General K.M. Obaidur Rahman on Tuesday reiterated the demand for resignation of President Ershad before Eid-ul-Azha. He also asked all Opposition MPs belonging to eight-party alliance to resign. Addressing a public meeting organised by BNP at Rayerbazar school ground, Mr Obaid was bitterly critical of the Government for deteriorating economic situation. The Textile and Jute Industries have been crippled following widespread smuggling, he alleged. He said that President Ershad was trying to run the country in Ayub style in late 1960s. If the Government does not resign before Eid-ul-Azha, we will have to think anew of the course of movement, he said. He asked his party workers to resist the hoodlums who have been engaged to foil the hartal programme. The looters and hoodlums will be hit back, he warned. He called for great Opposition unity to achieve the desired goal establishment of democracy. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Jul 87 p 1] /9317

ACCORD WITH BRUNEI--The visiting seven-member air transport delegation headed by Haji Awang Chuchu bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka HJ Abdullah, permanent secretary, Ministry of Communications, Government of Brunei Darussalam called on the Brunei Minister-in-charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr M.A. Sattar, at his secretariat office Monday morning. The Delegation stayed with the State Minister for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest, specially regarding finalisation of the signing of an air-agreement between the two governments, an official Press release said. Later agreed minutes of the meeting held in Dhaka on July 19 and 20 between the delegations of the Government of Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam for finalising an air services agreement was signed in Dhaka on Monday. Agreed minutes were signed by Mr Mohd Abu Hena, Additional Secretary-in-Charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, and by Haji Awang Chuchu bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka HJ Abdullah on behalf of their respective governments. [Excerpts] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Jul 87 p 8] /9317

TIES WITH URUGUAY--Bangladesh and Uruguay on Wednesday agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, reports BSS. The accreditation of the ambassadors will be subject to the agreement between both the governments, an official Press release said. The decision has been taken to promote friendly ties. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 87 p 8] /9317

ENVOY TO NEPAL--The government have decided to appoint Mr A.K.M. Jalaluddin at present Minister, Embassy of Bangladesh, Paris, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the kingdom of Nepal, it was announced in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS. Born in Faridpur, 1942, Mr Jalaluddin was educated at the Dhaka University from which he received B.A. (Hons) in Economics and M.A. in International Relations in 1964. Before joining government service in 1966, Mr Jalaluddin was a lecturer in the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University for a brief period. He held various positions in Bangladesh Government including Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh and Deputy Secretary, President's Secretariat till 1980 when Mr Jalaluddin joined BCS (Foreign Affairs). Between 1980 and 1984 he was a Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and principal of the Foreign Affairs Training Academy. He has been the Minister, Bangladesh Embassy in Paris since 1984. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Jul 87 p 3] /9317

JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR NAMED--Mr Fakhri Abu Taleb has been appointed Ambassador of Jordan to Bangladesh with residence in Islamabad, the foreign office announced here on Saturday, reports BSS. Born in 1926 in Amman, Mr Taleb joined the army in 1953. He served there till 1981 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant General. Mr Taleb is married and has four children. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jul 87 p 3] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA--The Government has decided to appoint Mr Abdul Bari, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Libya, says a handout. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Jul 87 p 3] /9317

AMBASSADOR TO BURMA--The Government has decided to appoint Mr A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan, at present ambassador of Bangladesh to the Peoples Republic of China as the country's ambassador to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Jul 87 p 3] /9317

FISCAL YEAR EXPORT EARNINGS--Bangladesh has earned one thousand sixty-one million dollars in export sector during the last financial year. The amount was 33 percent higher in terms of taka and 30 percent in terms of dollar over the export earnings of the preceding year, reports BSS. This was informed at the 43rd board meeting of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) held at EPB yesterday evening with Commerce Minister Mohamad Abdul Munim in the chair. Commerce Secretary A.B.M. Gholam Mostafa, Vice Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau, Deputy Governor Bangladesh Bank and President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries were, among others, present in the meeting. It was also revealed in the meeting that readymade garments, leather, frozen food, vegetables and handicrafts sector made outstanding contribution in export earning. It is further noted that volumewise export in 1986-87 increased by 35 percent over the preceding year. The volume of growth in traditional and non-traditional sector being 4 percent and 61 percent respectively. The meeting also discussed the implementation position of the export policy decision of 1987-88 vis-a-vis EPB work programme. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Jul 87 p 1] /9317

FOREIGN MINISTER'S ILLNESS--The scheduled visit of Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury to Iran due to begin from yesterday has been put off because of his indisposition. Additional Foreign Secretary told newsmen at a press conference yesterday at the ministry that Mr Choudhury had been suffering from virus flu for the last few days and that he could not accompany President during his state visit to Sanaa. The Foreign Minister was due to proceed to Tehran from Sanaa at the end of the state visit of the President on a three-day official tour of Iran. The Additional Foreign Secretary told a questioner that no fresh date had yet been fixed. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 Jul 87 p 1] /9317

CSO: 4600/1886

GOVERNMENT RELEASES FIVE POLITICAL DETAINEES

BK141014 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Text] Kathmandu, 14 Aug (AFP)--Nepal has released five political detainees and is considering the release of two others, officials said here Friday.

Those released were three journalists from banned publications and two politicians being held for up to a year under the nation's security act, a police source said. Another two journalists were still awaiting release.

Several members of the national Panchayat (parliament) have been strongly pressuring the government to release political detainees held under the act.

The released journalists were NEPAL CHRONICLE editor Chandra Lal Jha, VALLEY NEWS AND VIEWS columnist Hari Har Raj Joshi and CHHLAPHAL editor Raghu Pant. The three publications, two English-language dailies and a vernacular weekly, were permanently banned before the journalists were arrested.

The other two detainees released were veteran freedom fighter Tanka Nath Pokharel and leftist politician Bhakta Bahadur Shrestha.

Official sources said two other journalists, freelance writer Bhairab Risal and RAJDHANI editor and publisher Ang Dorje Lama, were in the process of being released after nearly a year in detention.

The RAJDHANI, another vernacular weekly, was banned permanently for publishing an article by Mr Risal which criticised the workings of Nepalese ministers and the country's partyless political system.

/9599

CSO: 4600/291

BRIEFS

ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Argentina Jaya Pratap Rana presented letter of credence to President of Argentina Dr Raul Alfonsin in Buenos Aires Wednesday. Mr Rana is the permanent Royal Nepalese representative to the United Nations. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 31 Jul 87 p 1 BK] /9599

ENVOY TO MALDIVES--His majesty the king has appointed Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Mohan Prasad Lohani, Royal Nepalese Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives also. This is stated in a notice issued here Sunday by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Aug 87 p 1 BK] /9599

CSO: 4600/291

U.S. AID: MAZARI ALLEGES BLACKMAIL

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 87 p 12

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 2: Sardar Sher Baz Mazari, President, National Democratic Party, has said the country's dignity and self-respect which has been badly damaged in the past and more so since the imposition of Martial Law in July 1977 dictated that "we should not, regardless of the American pressure, be blackmailed into allowing our country to be turned into a subject State of the Pentagon."

"It is only those people whose expectations were high are disappointed over the suspension of the US military and economic assistance to Pakistan for three-and-a-half-month," he said while talking to PPI here on Sunday.

The NDP chief said: "We do not approve of any nuclear energy programme which means manufacture of nuclear device and paves the way for total destruction of mankind but by the same token this policy should be adopted internationally and no discrimination be shown in the case of Pakistan or any other country. We stand for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and should not allow any foreign interference in our policies of national interest," he added.

Mr Mazari said judging from the past records of the American ad-

ministration's policy adopted in 1965 Indo-Pak War, in 1971 when the dismemberment of the country took place and the subsequent developments which harmed the interest of Pakistan, "We should ensure that in future we are not disillusioned by the high expectations of our rulers in their policy in gaining support from Washington to strengthen their grip on the destiny and future of our nation".

"The NDP right from the day of its formation has consistently demanded a positive non-aligned foreign policy with regard to the two superpowers", he added.

Mr Mazari returned here on Saturday night from Lahore after presiding over the two-day meeting of his party's National Working Committee held on July 30-31.

He said the NDP Secretary-General, Mr Farooq Qureshi, had handed over a letter on behalf of the party to Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Secretary-General, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam in Lahore on Sunday seeking certain clarifications regarding invitations being given to sitting members of the present unrepresentative parliament to attend the all parties conference (APC). —PPI

/13104

CSO: 4600/294

SUSPENSION OF U.S. AID DENOUNCED

Karachi. DAWN in English 5 Aug 87 p 12

[Text]

MULTAN, Aug 4: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Secretary-General of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, has said suspension of aid package by United States is a trick to blackmail the "weakest ever" government in Pakistan and to establish its supremacy over the country.

Talking to newsmen here the Maulana said United States was our fair weather friend "having a scalpel in its armpit."

He called upon the Government not to change its stand on the nuclear programme under American pressure in the same manner as it had accepted the pressure of the USSR on the Afghan issue.

Saying that United States was pressurising Pakistan to use it as a launching pad against the Soviet Union, he maintained that political parties have always asked the Government not to depend much on the USA as it was not a reliable friend and "had time-and-again betrayed Pakistan."

The Maulana charged that United States had played an "effective role in dismemberment of Pakistan and did not help in the wars of 1965 and 1971."

He added that despite tall claims of supporting Pakistan, the American leadership had always tried to "use it" for their own political and strategic interests.

He said Pakistan should develop its own national resources rather than depend on foreign debts.

He said: "The present regime, however, can not afford the suspension of the American aid package."

NPT: He was of the view that

Pakistan should not sign the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty as it was discriminatory in nature and was against the sovereignty of Pakistan.

FAKHR IMAM: He disclosed that Fakhr Imam group was convening its meeting on Aug 11 to hammer out a strategy for resigning from parliament.

He said the Parliamentary Opposition Group would be allowed to attend the all-party moot only when it resigns from the assembly.

SAUDI INCIDENT: The Maulana expressed his grief and sorrow over the tragic incident and bloodshed in Saudi Arabia and said that every pilgrim should abide by the rule and regulation of the host country.

MEETS NASRULLAH: Maulana Fazlur Rehman called on Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Chief of Pakistan Jamhoori Party.

He briefed the Nawabzada about his meetings with NPP's chief, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi; Syed Fakhr Imam, head of POG; Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, Chief of JUP; Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan and other heads of political parties.

The two MRD leaders exchanged views on arrangement of the all-party conference and ways and means to make it a success.

Later, he left for Dera Ismail Khan, his native town, where he will observe Eid-ul-Azha. The Maulana will meet Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, president of National Democratic Party, immediately after Eid-ul-Azha, in order to brief him about the aims and objectives of the all-party conference.

REAPPRAISAL OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. RULED OUT

Karachi. DAWN in English 5 Aug 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

AUGUST 4: The Pakistan Government is not undertaking any reappraisal of Pakistan's relations with the United States in spite of the recent recommendations of the House Subcommittee on (Foreign) Appropriations, which if approved by the US Congress will defer the disbursement of the pledged 1987-93 US package of economic assistance and military credits to Pakistan till the middle of January next year.

A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, while briefing the Press on Tuesday on the talks the US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Michael Armacost, had held in Islamabad on Aug 2 and 3, said that the two sides had discussed the Afghanistan issue, the Nuclear questions and Arshad Parvez's incident, and the likely deferment of the US six-year package in a spirit of "cordiality and candour".

The spokesman said that Mr Armacost who had met President Gen Zia-ul-Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, besides holding talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yakub Khan and other senior officials had a very profound dialogue and exchange of information which had "contributed to their bilateral understanding and maintenance of supportive relationship".

He, reassuringly, emphasised that the Reagan Administration

had deplored the Sub-committee's recommendation and renewed its affirmation to ensure passage of more than four billion dollar Aid-to-Pakistan package through the Congress.

The spokesman agreed with a questioner who had asked how come that inspite of well-known respective positions of Washington and Islamabad on Pakistan's Nuclear programme for the last so many years, one still found that there was always a pressure exerted on Pakistan on its Nuclear programme whenever the country faced difficult situation whether in domestic affairs or in its foreign relations.

The spokesman, however, pointed out that the United States had a very complex (political and government) system and it was not for the first time that there had been such an enthusiastic outburst (against Pakistan).

SYMINGTON AMENDMENT: He said it was true that Pakistan had been singled out under the Symington Amendment ten years ago and was now being singled out again under Solarz's pressure, which, he warned, if it succeeded, would not be good for bilateral relations and might have deleterious effect.

But during the talks, he said, Mr Armacost had impressed on Pakistan the necessity to take measures during Arshad Pervez's trial in Pennsylvania to reassure the American public opinion about Islamabad's (Pakistan's) position on Nuclear question. The spokesman said that Mr Armacost was shown the photocopies of the documents concerning the alleged deal by Ar-

shad Pervez maintaining that it was "an above-board commercial enquiry by a multi-national".

Pakistan side had informed the US official that Islamabad regarded the Arshad Pervez incident as a conspiracy to damage the mutually supportive relations between Pakistan and the United States by elements in the two countries which, he emphasised, were able to get support of the motivated media.

The spokesman said that during the talks Pakistan has reiterated its firm policy that its uranium enrichment programme was exclusively for peaceful purposes and subject to contractual safeguards. But Pakistan, he pointed out, was not prepared to accept any unilateral or discriminatory terms in the context of South Asia.

He said that Pakistan did not and would not approve any attempt to violate laws of any country in commercial deals. Answering a question the spokesman said, the Pakistan Government had not accused the US Government of its part in the Arshad Parvez conspiracy. There was, however, evidence that certain individuals were out to embarrass Pakistan.

He further said that Mr Armacost was requested to let Pakistan share any information which might come to light in the course of investigations and trial of Mr Arshad Parvez, accused of attempting to export banned miraging steel to Pakistan

for its uranium enrichment plant.

The spokesman declared there was at all no law which would make it obligatory to open an indigenously made Nuclear plant open for international inspection.

He said the American official had again voiced US concern against Nuclear proliferation. For sometime past, Washington had also supported Pakistan's proposal for regional approach in implementation of Nuclear non-proliferation.

When told that some legislators in the United States viewed contradiction in Pakistan's Afghanistan policy and Nuclear programme, the spokesman replied, in our opinion the statements of some US legislators that we face a dilemma in this regard was misconceived. Pakistan did not see any dichotomy in its Afghanistan policy and Nuclear policy.

He said both Pakistan and US were committed to both the objectives of supporting the Afghans' struggle and Non-proliferation in South Asia. It was, however, the approach to the problem, unilateral renunciation, on which Pakistan differed with the U.S. because it believed that it would not achieve the objective of Non-proliferation in South Asia.

The spokesman said that both the sides during the discussions in Islamabad shared appreciation for the valour and fortitude of the Afghan people to regain independence and sovereignty.

/13104

CSO: 4600/296

CHINA SAID EAGER TO COOPERATE IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Aug 87 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: China has reiterated its earnest desire to cooperate with Pakistan in its national defence and defence production requirements.

This was stated here on Monday night by the Minister of State for Defence, Rana Naeem Mahmud Khan, while talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport on his return from a 12-day goodwill tour of China.

"There is a tremendous scope of collaboration in the field of defence production between the two countries," the minister added.

Mr Mahmud said he had visited various defence production units in China in order to see the development which had so far taken place since cooperation between the two countries started.

He said his talks with Chinese leaders were held in a cordial

atmosphere which was the hall mark of Pakistan-China friendship. He stated further that many topics of mutual interests were discussed.

The Minister said that during the talks with the Chinese officials, situation in the region as well as in the world was also discussed. He said further that it was the desire of China to cooperate with Pakistan in the fields of national defence and defence production.

While in China, the Minister also attended the commissioning ceremony of Pakistan naval ship "PNS Nasr."

The ship has been built by the Chinese engineers to the specifications and requirements of Pakistan naval in a year's time.

The ship, which is expected to reach Karachi by the end of this month, will be able to supply oil to other ships while at sea.—APP/PPI

/13104

CSO: 4600/295

SENATE DISCUSSES PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 30: The Senate continued discussion on the President's April 19 address to the Parliament on the second day amidst strong warnings to the civilian government that if it failed to initiate dialogue with the political forces outside the Parliament without losing any more time, the conspiracies being hatched against it would succeed.

Four Senators including Shirin Dil Khan Niazi, Abdul Qayyum Khan, Tariq Chaudhri and Syed Abbas Shah took part in the discussions which would continue on Monday.

Earlier the Senate disposed of a privilege motion sought to be moved by Senators Maulana Kausar Niazi and Javed Jabbar against the President's public speech at Bala-kot, Azad Kashmir, on July 18. The two Senators said that by exhorting the people to join the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, the President had breached the privilege of the House. The President's statement, they maintained, infringed the basic requirements of the office of the President, who constitutionally was a part of the Parliament and being a non-partisan, represented all segments of political and public opinion as a symbol of the unity of the Republic.

Maulana Kausar Niazi said that by making such a statement, the President had violated the Constitution while Javed Jabbar claimed that the present incumbent of the Presidency was also the COAS and in such a position, he, by exhorting the people to join a par-

ticular political party, had encouraged the involvement of the Armed Forces in political activities, which was a negation of all democratic norms.

The Justice Minister opposed the motion on the ground that no breach of privilege of any of the Members was caused and the House was not competent to open discussions on the personal conduct of the President. The Chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his lengthy ruling, upheld the argument extended by the Justice Minister Wasim Sajjad and ruled the motion out of order.

After the privilege and the adjournment motions were disposed of, the Senate assumed discussions on the President's address.

Initiating the discussions, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shirin Dil Khan Niazi said that the President in his address had dealt at length with the system of judiciary in the country but he asked what steps had he himself taken to reform the system during his 11 year rule. He suggested that a commission should be appointed to sort out the number of pending cases and formulate the proposals for their early disposal. He regretted that the law and order situation was worsening day by day.

Senator Tariq Chaudhry delivered the most hard-hitting speech today during which he warned the civilian government against the conspiracies being hatched against it. He said the Generals were always found united in defending and protecting each other. It was high time,

he said, that politicians get united to defend the political system. He pleaded that the government should immediately initiate dialogue with the political forces outside the House to forge national unity and should get rid of the illusion that it was powerful enough to thwart these conspiracies.

The Government, he suggested, should remove all restrictions in way of registration of political parties and after taking them into confidence, should announce the date for holding the general elections. The Senator said that only by strengthening the political and election process, could we save the political system.

APP ADDS: Brig. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan (Punjab) said the Presidential address was a remarkable event and had projected the policy issues. He maintained that no doubt that the Presidential address was not discussed like the annual budget, but the Senate is the only forum to express its viewpoint on the important problems facing the country. He said he urged the government to allow discussion of the Federal Budget in the Senate as well. He said neither the constitution nor the rules of procedure debarred such a discussion.

Dealing with the Afghan issue, he said that Pakistan must pursue its principled stand of the Afghanistan issue. He said Pakistan in the context of this policy was defending its ideological as well as the eco-

nomic frontiers.

He said the United States of America was helping Pakistan because the country was facing grave problems arising out of the Afghan problem. He said the USA had to watch its own interests. He said that any blackmail in the context of the aid should not be tolerated by Pakistan in any manner and it should pursue the policy on Afghanistan even if it had to seek some other sources for help.

Mr. Tariq Chaudhry pointed out that the recent bomb blasts and the deteriorating law and order situation in the country had added to the uncertainty in the country. He said every effort should be made to strengthen the democratic institutions in the country and the civilian government should be given full opportunity to play its role and continue its functioning smoothly.

Syed Abbas Shah speaking next said the President's address did not refer national policy with tangible objectives to resolve the problems facing the country. He observed that reference was made in the speech about the government's policies but, he added it was not presented with clarity.

He said it was a prerogative of the Senate members to express their opinions for and against the speech of the President as it was parliamentary tradition.

While holding the motion inadmissible, the Chairman, Ishaq Khan recalled his previous rulings on similar motions in which he said he had dealt with expansively.

The Chairman said that it would be unrealistic to expect the President, who was elected by an electoral college comprising elected representatives of the people and belonging to a political party, to enlist support of his constituency to retain his present office or being elected in future. The office of the President was political in nature as he was nominated by a party. Therefore, he said the contention

that the President should be a non-partisan or a non-political in the strictest sense could not be held valid. Expression of his beliefs on political issues would not lead to fragmentation of unity of the republic nor his views in favour of a party could be considered disruptive, he said.

The Chairman also said that both in the United States and France the Presidents actively worked for the parties they represented.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan also referred to the oath of office of the President and the Prime Minister which were totally similar. The oath did not debar them from expressing their views on national issues except that they would do nothing which was against Islamic Ideology, the constitution and integrity and security of the country.

The contention that the President had violated the constitution he said was a justiciable matter which could be done by the courts alone. The chair or the House had no powers to interpret it which was the sole prerogative of the courts. If at all there had been any violation of the constitution as claimed by the movers, they could bring this matter for discussion by way of a substantive motion as provided in the constitution and not in the form of a privilege motion.

Also he said no clear line between the personal conduct and official conduct of the President had been drawn and it could not be determined whether the President had expressed his views in his personal capacity or in his official capacity.

About the dual role of the President as Chief of Army Staff and President, the Chairman said it did not necessarily mean that he made the speech as Chief of Army Staff.

While ruling the motion out of order the Chairman remarked that the President by expressing views in favour of a political party had neither violated the constitution nor affected the unity of the country. He has not done anything improper, he said.

JUNEJO CALLS FOR REORGANIZING MUSLIM LEAGUE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE July 30: The Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is also the President of the Pakistan Muslim League, today underlined the need for encouraging new entrants into the PML to give strength to the party ranks.

He was addressing the PML workers, councillors and veterans of the party, at the Governor's House today. Premier Junejo said old PML workers were being given full respect and importance but it was also essential to encourage those who had joined the party recently.

The country had a parliamentary system of government in which the political parties played a vital role he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that comprehensive efforts were needed to reorganise the Muslim League and give it maximum strength.

He said if the PML was well organised the bureaucracy would be compelled to respect its workers and the masses would also rally round them.

He exhorted party workers to strive to strengthen their roots in the masses, adding that this was possible if they helped the people in solving their problems.

He said at present, the government's priority was to maintain law and order and every effort was being made in this direction. He assured them that the government would be able to set things in order and as such, there was nothing to worry about in this regard.

The acting Punjab Governor Justice Ghulam Mujaddid Mirza and Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif were present at the meeting.

CONSTITUTION: Mr Junejo declared that his government will not hesitate to bring about any change and improvement in the constitution if so required.

In this regard he reiterated that the country's Parliament was the supreme body which held all the powers to enact such amendments.

Talking to a delegation of lawyers from the Punjab at the Governor's House last night, the

Prime Minister said there was complete rule of law in the country and the courts enjoyed full freedom.

He said in an atmosphere of full freedom enjoyed by the courts the legal profession has an added responsibility. He said that contrary to the advice of many he had lifted emergency which had remained enforced in the country for over two decades and declared that his government was determined not to reimpose such measures which curtails human rights and impeded the democratic process.

Asked to comment on the demand for fresh elections and as well as the proposed All Parties Conference (APC) the Prime Minister wondered when was the need and what was the issue that demanded fresh elections. The present representatives of the people he said, had been elected in fair and free elections on adult franchise and had won the mandate to run the state's affairs for a five-year term.

/9274

CSO: 4600/287

MQM LEADER CLARIFIES POSITION ON ISSUES

Karachi. DAWN in English 4 Aug 87 p 10

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 3: Mohajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain said here on Monday, Punjabis and Pathans who had settled here with their families had as much right on Sind as Sindhis and Mohajirs.

Addressing a Press conference called a few hours after his arrival from America after a month-long tour, Mr Hussain said he wanted to make it clear that the MQM was not against any particular ethnic or linguistic community. "We have no other aim," he said, "except to safeguard Mohajir rights and to reclaim those rights which have been usurped."

The MQM "thinking" was reflected in its action in the aftermath of the Karachi blasts when MQM volunteers gave medical aid and provided every kind of relief to the injured irrespective of the province they came from or the language they spoke.

Asked whether the MQM would respond to the offer by the Punjabi-Pakhtoon Mahaz to sit together and sort things out, MQM Chairman Azim Tariq who was in charge of the MQM when the offer was made during Mr Hussain's stay in the United States, said he had serious reservations about the bona fides of the PPI.

He alleged that the PPI had been "formed in the police head office," that it had "more influence with the police than the Sind administ-

ration" and that the PPI usually acted in concert with the police.

He said the "attack on the main bazaar of Landhi," the alleged police protection to the attacker, and the subsequent police action on those who were protesting against the attack were proof of "the collusion between the police and the PPI."

Resuming, Mr Altaf Hussain said, during the Mohajir convention in New York, some of the participants had some reservations about what the MQM chief had told them about the attitude of the police. But the news of the Karachi bomb blasts, the events in Shah Faisal Colony, Landhi and Korangi and the attitude of the police towards Mohajirs "convinced them that the Mohajirs were victims of injustice and police prejudice" and that the MQM was the "true protector of the rights of Mohajirs."

Mr Altaf Hussain said the events in Shah Faisal Colony and Landhi were the result of the "prejudicial attitude of non-local police."

He alleged that the victims of police firing included "an eighty-year old man and a boy of 12, both coming out of a mosque after prayers." He alleged that the police had charged into homes, attacked innocent men, women and children and "dragged women by their hair."

Other points made by the MQM

leader in a lengthy Press talk late at night included:

- One particular religious party was responsible behind riots in Liaquatabad. Asked to name that party, he said everybody knew who he was referring to.

- There was serious danger of sectarian riots in Karachi and rest of Sind. There were no riots last year because MQM was instrumental in maintaining sectarian peace. Now "the literature being churned out" was an indication of things to come.

- Irrespective of the financial position, the Government should announce it was ready to take in Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh. Once an announcement was made, MQM Overseas would raise the needed money.

- Men in uniform should not consider themselves above law. There was no example in Pakistan where "a man in uniform was punished for violating a law." Cases under Section 302 (murder) should be registered against policemen involved in alleged killings in Shah Faisal Colony, Landhi and Korangi.

- He had not gone to America to marry.

- Congratulations to Ms Benazir Bhutto on her engagement.

Present at the Press conference were MQM Overseas leaders Zakir Siddiqi and Gul Mohammad.

/13104

CSO: 4600/295

CONVENER OF ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE INTERVIEWED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 87 pp 19, 20

[Interview with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Secretary-General, JUI, the party which will play host to the all-party conference to be held in Lahore next month by Ashraf Muntaz; date and place not given]

[Text] How do you view the present situation in the country?

The present situation is very deplorable. The whole country is burning. The most serious problem is that of law and order. The continuing blasts in various parts of the country have made the people think about the motives behind them. It is obvious that these blasts cannot be the work of patriotic elements. Anti-State elements, whether domestic or alien, are involved in them. But the question is: Who has made these domestic or alien elements anti-Pakistan? In my opinion, all this is due to the wrong policies of the present regime. Our relations with the neighbouring countries have become so strained that the latter have jeopardised the very integrity of Pakistan. But the rulers are so overwhelmed by their lust for power that they are least concerned about the solidarity of the country. An analysis of the situation leads one to believe that these blasts are the result of the policy of the country's rulers. General Zia has recently broken this 'happy news' that another 154 blasts will take place. How surprising it is that on the one hand the Government has failed to arrest the saboteurs and, on the other hand, they are not only aware of the future blasts but also know their exact number! The President says Afghanistan is responsible for these

blasts but the Prime Minister pins the blame on India. The contradictory statements of the two persons occupying the highest posts indicate that they are not clear about foreign involvement in the blasts. They are trying to cover up something but the same gets exposed by their contradictory statements. The Prime Minister has also revealed in a recent statement that arms are being smuggled through the National Logistic Cell trucks, which are operated by the armed forces! This means the Prime Minister is implicating the services in the blasts and he fears that General Ziaul Haq is trying to create a situation in which the present set-up comes to an end and the military resumes sole charge.

Why is the proposed all-parties conference necessary and what will it achieve?

The ten years of Martial Law and the involvement of Generals in politics have led to political and intellectual disintegration. Popular participation in national affairs has dwindled. National politics has degenerated and regional, linguistic, racial and sectarian trends have received boost. Nothing called the Pakistani nation is in existence today. These dangerous trends made us think of something which could

promote national politics and focus people's attention on national issues. With this objective in mind we thought of bringing the political parties and politicians on a single platform. The proposed all-parties conference will help achieve this objective. We have not come across any difficulty which could be a source of disappointment. All the parties and personalities that we have contacted so far have taken the proposal seriously and have given a positive response. We are very optimistic about the outcome of the APC. All components of MRD and those outside the alliance, whom we have invited, will participate. The position of Tehrik-i-Istiqal is, however, not fully clear. We will continue our efforts to persuade them to participate. The conference will be held in Lahore by the middle of next month. Twenty delegates have been invited from each party, the total number of delegates may be around 400-500.

We believe that such an assembly of political leaders will in itself be a happy sign. It will produce positive results and prove to be the starting point of a new democratic struggle in the country.

How do you think any APC declaration could be implemented?

Making of a demand is one thing and creating an atmosphere conducive to its realisation another. On the issue of practical struggle to achieve an objective, the parties may have different opinions. We understand that under the present circumstances a difference of opinion might be there about the practical programme of struggle. But after the conference, I believe, the situation will have undergone a qualitative change. The political parties will feel themselves in a position of coordination, their mutual trust will be restored and they will think in a more nationalistic and positive manner. In brief, the post-conference atmosphere will be more congenial for a common struggle. The difference of opinion on post-conference steps before the conference is actually held would in fact sabotage the whole programme. We are, therefore, very careful

about all aspects. No doubt we demand disbandment of the present unconstitutional and unrepresentative Government, but creating national thinking on the national issues is another and nobler task before us. Comments by critics give the impression that the all-parties conference is an exercise in futility, without a programme of confrontation thereafter. We think that such conferences are convened for the cause of national integrity and not for movements. However, such conferences can become the starting points of future struggle and strategies.

What about the MRD meeting to be held before APC to discuss the post-APC strategy?

The holding of a meeting of MRD parties before the proposed APC has not been possible because of the preoccupations of the various component parties. Since the time available to us is short no such meeting will be possible even in the coming days. The MRD meeting will be convened after the APC and then we will consider the gains of this exercise and ways and means to further our struggle.

What are your party's priorities in the present situation?

The JUI is a national party which has tremendous political importance. It is determined to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare State. The JUI will replace with an Islamic system the present laws which are a legacy of the British period, the rule of bureaucracy, capitalism and feudalism, interest-based banking system. The JUI will also give the country a genuinely non-aligned foreign policy and ensure relations with the super-Power on the basis of equality. We have always supported liberation struggles and human rights all over the world. We have been supporting such struggles by Vietnam, Kashmiris, Palestinians and the people of Afghanistan.

What are your views on the Afghanistan problem?

We want a political solution of the Afghanistan problem. This is a dis-

pute between the democratic Government of Afghanistan and the people of that country. Thus, the Government and the resistance forces are the actual parties to the matter. But international circumstances indicate that the key to resolve this problem lies with the two super-Powers and both of them are unlawfully interfering in that country for their vested interests. While America is using Pakistan for its interests, the Soviet Union is doing the same with Afghanistan. As a result, resentment is generating in the minds of the people of two countries against both the super-Powers. If these Powers do not change their policies according to the changing realities of time, the people will force them to leave this region, as they have never tolerated interference of others in their matters. We understand that if resistance leaders are ready to hold talks with the Soviet Union, they should be given a chance. They don't give Pakistan the right to talk on their behalf.

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CSO: 4600/297

COMMENTARY VIEWS ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

Karachi. DAWN in English 5 Aug 87 p 3

[Article by Ashraf Mumtaz]

[Text]

AUG 4: The all-party conference, which some observers say, will be an identification parade to distinguish between democratic and anti-democratic forces, is the major issue of public interest these days.

The JUI, the sponsor of the conference, has extended invitations to all parties, groups and individuals who are opposed to the present political set-up and favour fresh elections. It is striving to ensure the participation of all invitees and to make the exercise a success.

The main objective of the conference is to give the world an impression that all major parties are opposed to the present system and want fresh elections under the rules that were in force before the imposition of Martial Law in July 1977. Whether the conference will succeed in achieving these objectives remains to be seen.

There are indications that some of the invitees will not participate in the conference on one pretext or the other.

Secondly, mere adoption of a declaration (that Gen. Zia should go, and an interim government should be set up to hold fresh elections under the 1973 Constitution within a specified period) without backing with a pressure programme would hardly achieve the desired effect.

The MRD parties agree that the conference will not lead to a new alliance or a practical plan of action.

Besides the MRD parties, the invitees include the National Democratic Party, JUP, NPP, Tehrik-i-

Istiqlal, the Jamat Ahle Hadith, Tehrik Nafaz Fiqah Jafaria and the parliamentary opposition group.

The Tehrik-i-Istiqlal has already declined the invitation on the ground that it would be an exercise in futility. The JUP has referred the matter to its central working committee which is scheduled to meet on Aug 11 but its central leadership is known to have reservations about the conference.

Maulana Noorani is on record as having said that the conference had been delayed. Another central leader opposes the proposed move, apparently on the plea that without a line of action there is no use in holding such a meeting actually, however, he does not want the JUI alone to get the credit for bringing the political parties on a single platform.

The NDP, which otherwise stands for unity among the political parties, has sought clarifications about some of the invitees, specially the POG and NPP. The NDP leaders say they would not like to sit with the parties which are represented in the assemblies.

The Parliamentary Opposition Group has been invited on the condition that its members resign from their Assembly seats. Though Mr Fakhr Imam has said that the POG may take such a step provided it is in the interest of the nation and democracy, he has also called a POG meeting for Aug 11.

However, the group is hardly likely to pay such a heavy price for ranking among the "flock of demo-

crats" who for the time being, have no chance of coming into power.

It may be recalled that the POG had failed to do anything when Syed Fakhr Imam was removed from the office of National Assembly Speaker, though the reports of en bloc resignations were published at the time, too.

The NPP has been invited to the conference in spite of being represented in the Assembly. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been telling the critics that the NPP member in the Assembly has submitted his resignation to his party chief.

Thus, the NPP, the Jamiat Ahle Hadith and Tehrik Nifaz-i-Fiqah Jafaria are the only parties outside the MRD fold which are likely to attend the conference.

Malik Qasim, President of the Pakistan Muslim League, is understood to have indicated to the JUI that his party may participate in

the conference but he sticks to his stand on adverse effects of proportional representation and seeks the MRD's commitment to the quantum of provincial autonomy as worked out by a special committee of the alliance.

The official Muslim League and Jamaat-i-Islami have not been invited because of their pro-Martial Law role. The Khaksar Tehrik, (which was a component of the PNA), JUI (Darkhwasti group), Jamaat Ahle Sunnat, Awami Jamhoori Party, Jeay Sind Tehrik, Mohajir Qaumi Movement and Communist party of Jam Saqi are the other parties which have not been invited on various grounds.

As things stand it is likely that the conference may turn into a debating forum and may not succeed in exerting the kind and amount of pressure needed for the acceptance of its demands.

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CSO: 4600/295

COMMENTARY VIEWS MISUSE OF IDENTITY CARDS

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 87 pp 7, 8

[Text]

THE BOMB BLASTS in Lahore and Karachi seem to have shocked Government into admitting – what everyone had known for years – that Pakistan's Identity Cards and Passports are being misused by foreign nationals for various, usually nefarious, purposes.

Repeatedly Authority's attention had been invited by the Press to the prospering racket which made National Identity Cards and Passports available to anyone for a price. It was pointed out that Pakistan's laws were thereby being flouted, and the Immigration Rules bent. These warnings were ignored with customary bureaucratic wooden-headedness. Other foreigners are said to be playing this game, but the worst offenders are known to come from our Afghan guests who have greater opportunities because they are given better facilities, and who play for bigger stakes by cheating their hosts – the Pakistan Government and people.

Verification

That this racket had to be suppressed promptly cannot be denied. However, unfortunately, even when Government makes a move in the right direction, the method and manner of its action add to the people's inconvenience and open up new avenues for official corruption. It has been decided that all old Identity Cards will be recalled, and new ones will be issued for a price.

This amount may be negligible for most citizens, but it will constitute an additional burden for many. Then the process will take an unduly long time; thus, those who are in a hurry will have to pay a bigger informal fee. It has also been decreed that Passports will no longer be issued automatically to everyone, and every new applicant will have to obtain a favourable police report in respect of his identity and status. That proper verification should be carried out before identification documents are issued is understandable. In fact, existing rules also provide for certain checks. These rules were ignored mainly because it was always possible to grease appropriate palms. This can still happen: and unless special steps are taken to cleanse the administrative machinery involved in the process, it will most certainly happen. As usual Government servants and the legislators have been exempted from this time-consuming procedure. Only ordinary citizens will suffer delays and be compelled to pay a price before they are granted what is theirs by right as citizens. It is also rather difficult to understand why nothing has been said about checking existing I.D. Cards and Passports to cancel those given to foreign nationals. If in a distant place like Saudi Arabia, a group of non-Pakistanis can be apprehended for carrying Pakistani passports, why cannot our intelligence agencies undertake this task with some measure of honesty and efficiency?

It is essential that the scheme announced should be revised in order to eliminate delays and to ensure that genuine Pakistani citizens are not harassed by the administration's factotums, and that the stress is on weeding out foreigners who now hold or wish to acquire Pakistani identity papers.

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CSO: 4600/297

ISSUANCE OF NEW IDENTITY CARDS SAID AT STANDSTILL

Karachi. DAWN in English 5 Aug 87 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 4: The Federal Ministry of Interior has ordered police verification for grant of National Identity Cards but has not so far laid down any procedure nor has prescribed any form for such certification.

Consequently, police verification in all cases is not forthcoming and the issuance of National Identity Cards is virtually stopped.

This has also resulted in great inconvenience to hundreds of applicants as well as the police who are facing the desperate applicants.

The ID Card officials are verbally asking applicants to seek police clearance. They give them no letter or documents specifying their requirements, inquiries show.

The applicants queue up at the police stations only to be told that the police had no instructions about the procedure or manner of such verification.

Besides, authorised police officials refused to verify the papers in the presence of the applicants. They wanted an official reference on the plea that it was a confidential communication between two Government departments and the papers could not be handed over to the applicants.

Minors who were originally registered with their parents and had now attained the prescribed age (18 years) are also being asked to seek police clearance.

They include scores of students who want ID cards for domicile or such other purposes.

PARTY-BASED ELECTIONS URGED AS MEANS TO SOLVE SIND PROBLEM

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 Jun 87 p 3

[Article by Abdul Karim Abid: "Pakistani Politics and the Sind Problem"]

[Excerpts] Every Pakistani ruler has claimed that during his term of office Pakistan became so strong that it would not fall victim to disaster and that the chain holding the safety and integrity of the country together had no weak links. But such assurances have eventually proved to be false, and today Pakistan is going through the worst period of insecurity in its history. Our ideological, political, economic and social dissension and decay have gone beyond the limits of danger.

Pakistan has a long history of instability, and the struggle between the center and the provinces is written large on every page of this tragic history. It was as result of this dissension that, first of all, a constitution could not be drawn up, and when it finally was formulated, it fell prey to martial law. It was the undemocratic and autocratic center that was unjust in its treatment of the large province of East Pakistan on the one hand and the small provinces of West Pakistan on the other, and set them on the wrong political path. Today the situation in Sind has reached a dangerous point, and Dr Israr Ahmad is correct in saying that the fate of Pakistan will be decided in the deserts of Sind.

The thinking among the ruling classes in regard to Sind seems to be that they will be able to set the situation right by inflicting a great deal of killing and violence upon Sind. These circles think that the experiment that failed in East Pakistan will succeed in Sind; to this end, movements and personalities are being given away in Sind so that a situation will be created that will justify fighting and killing in the future. The ruling group also holds the view that if the non-Sindhi population of that province is handed over as a bribe and juicy morsel to the Sindhis, good relations will be established between Sind and Punjab. Some people, on the other hand, think that government can be carried on by means of encouraging division and confrontation. But neither cunning and intrigue nor violence and military actions will solve the Sind problem; they will only complicate it more.

The solution to the Sind problem lies in the holding of new elections on the basis of parties. If such elections cannot be held throughout Pakistan,

then at least they should be held in Sind; the present assembly should be disbanded immediately and new elections held on the basis of parties. This will allow progress toward a healthy solution to the Sind problem. Failing such a step, Sind, which is already lost ideologically, will seize the first opportunity to rebel. Any attempt to hold on to this province on the basis of imperialism will not succeed for very long.

The problem of Sind did not arise recently; it came into being with the establishment of Pakistan. We just did not feel the necessity of facing up to it. Some 18 years ago, in 1968, my articles on the Jai Sind movement appeared serially in the newspaper HURRIYAT over a period of a year. The articles analyzed in detail the state of the Jai Sind movement, its political, economic, cultural and psychological roots and the possibility of its effect on our future. That year I published in HURRIYAT a large number of letters from our Sindhi brothers complaining of their deprivations and describing the feelings and complaints heard in Sind. Unfortunately, the ruling powers who make policy live in a world of their own and feel no need to look beyond it. They walk their own path with closed eyes. If any attention had been paid to these articles and letters some 18 years ago and positive measures had been taken, the good effects would have been visible today.

The events in Sind were unusual. The first wrong it suffered was that our civil and military bureaucracy imposed its authoritarian power, and Sind had no share in it whatsoever. Its status was that of a dependent inferior. Then suddenly, because of Mr Bhutto, power came into the hands of Sindhis unnaturally. Large landowners from the villages and their entourage were seen living it up not only in the cities of Sind but in the capital city of Islamabad as well. During this period, the middle class and the poor members of the long-deprived population of Sind were also able to slake their thirst at the flowing river of Bhutto's power. They quaffed a few glasses and forgot that power can be lost; thus, they remained aloof from movements such as democracy, provincial autonomy, civil rights and Islam, and remained in a drunken stupor shouting, long live Bhutto! When power was overturned and Bhutto was hanged, his death wounded the heart of every Sindhi. No salve was offered for the wound; the whips of martial law crackled in the air, and in order to get rid of Bhutto worship, the government encouraged other forces in Sind such as the Pir Pagaro group, the Jai Sind movement and the confederationists. This policy may have reduced the power of the People's Party in Sind, but from the national standpoint it proved injurious to national strength.

I would like to suggest to my Sindhi friends that they explain to the inhabitants of Sind that if they want a new Sind founded on democracy, they will have to create a new political leadership. Sind cannot prosper under the leadership of the old-style large landowners; nor can a middle class torn with ideological dissension and lacking confidence, faith, morality and action lead Sind toward any kind of goal. While fully supporting Sind's rights from the point of view of Pakistan's stability, I would like to remind the people of Sind of their responsibilities, without acceptance of which Sind will always suffer from a dangerous

instability created by an undemocratic and authoritarian center. The cure does not lie in spreading political dissension and moral waywardness based on provincial prejudices. This may finish Pakistan, but Sind will not be saved either as it will be torn into small pieces. It is in the interests of both Sind and Pakistan to adopt a national way of thinking and a spiritual and moral philosophy and try as soon as possible to initiate a new positive and healthy policy in the area by means of new elections.

9863/9190

CSO: 4656/93

LEADER ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF 'ALREADY RIGGING' LOCAL ELECTIONS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Aug 87 p 6

[Text]

ABBOTTABAD, July 31: Mr. Omar Asghar Khan, Chairman, Istiqial Youth League has alleged that the government had already started 'rigging' the local polls by delimiting constituencies in such a way as would benefit the PML's would be candidates. Mr. Khan was addressing a public meeting at Sherwan near Abbottabad yesterday.

Omar Asghar Khan, who is a noted economist, criticised Gen. Zia, who is also the chief of army staff, for going about addressing public meetings and calling upon the people to join the Muslim League, while the Indian soldiers had occupied Siachin Glacier. Mr. Khan further alleged that crores of rupees were being spent from the national exchequer on 'selling' Muslim League to the people who had rejected it long ago and on the wasteful and ostentatious receptions of the rulers. "The rulers have no right to squander national funds in such a manner", he demanded. He added that the huge amount wasted on the receptions of Gen. Zia, Prime Minister Junejo and the Chief Ministers in

Muzaffarabad (Azad Kashmir) could well have been used for development." With this wasted money, they could have built 200 houses, for the poor 20 mile long metalled roads and provided for electric and water supply schemes in the area for which the people have been making demands for a long time".

He said the rulers were being very indifferent to the problems faced by the people. He said that the present government represented feudal lords and other vested interests. The tahrir he said had no place for exploiters.

He added that crores of rupees given to members of provincial and national assembly and senators got down the drain.

He said the tragic events in Kurram agency were the result of the government's faulty interior and foreign policies. He said that Gen. Zia's rule had divided the nation into biradaries and nationalities.

Others who addressed the meeting were Pirzada Jamil Shah, Saeed Akhtar, Advocate, Kamran Ahmed Advocate and Babar Khan.

/9274

CSO: 4600/288

ELECTION COMMISSION SAID BUSY WITH ELECTORAL ROLLS

Karachi. DAWN in English 3 Aug 87 pp 1, 12

[Text] KARACHI, Aug 2: The Pakistan Election Commission will hand over complete sets of fresh electoral rolls to the election authorities of the provinces by the third week of August for the local bodies polls later this autumn.

Each provincial election authority has indented a set of 100 for every electoral area, which is a ward in the cities and a village/goth in the rural areas.

The demand of the cantonment boards, which also hold L.B. polls according to their own rules, has been placed at a set of 50 each.

The Commission is arranging the production of sets of 200 for each Electoral Unit. After meeting the demands of the Provincial Election Authorities /cantonment boards, it will retain the balance for its own needs upto the next general elections, including sales to the members of the public.

Under the law, the price of each printed page of the rolls has been fixed at Rs two. The provincial election authorities will also pay the same price.

A spokesman of the Pakistan Election Commission said on telephone from Islamabad that the "work was now at the fag-end" and was confident that the fresh rolls will be on sale by the third week of the month.

In many cases, bound copies of ward-wise rolls were ready. In some, the binding was in advanced stages.

The overall quality and method of preparation of electoral rolls this time is much improved than in the past.

Every set has a cover page with an abstract which gives com-

prehensive details of the particular electoral area, the break-up of voters sex-wise and religion-wise etc.

The first section (in white pages) is for Muslim voters — males and females separately. The next section is in pink pages for the Christians, followed by sky blue pages for Hindus and Scheduled Castes, yellow pages for Sikhs, Parsis and Budhists etc., and finally the green section for the Qadianis.

Where there are no voters of a particular religious community, the allotted page is still there but carries a certificate of the Commission's designated officer to this effect.

Similarly, if a village had existed on the survey or revenue map but had disappeared for any reason like change of course by river, there is still an Electoral List for it but without any voters and carrying a certificate to that effect. This would ensure that there were no subsequent claims in this regard.

In so far as Sind Province is concerned, the total number of voters (21 years and above on Jan 1, 1986) is stated to be well over 10 million spread over more than 7,000 Electoral Units. These are covered by a total of 71 Registration Offices all over the provinces.

In all the cases, printing of the rolls has already been completed. Seventeen Registration Offices have also completed the task in all respects and have sent compliance reports. In most others, binding is in progress.

The delivery of the printed rolls is being given by the printers Registration Office-wise. Besides

Sanghar, printing work of 14 other Registration Offices has also been received from the printers. These include two each of the districts of Sukkur, Khairpur, Nawabshah and Hyderabad, and one each of Dadu, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Karachi-East, Karachi-West and Karachi-South.

Among the first to be delivered to the Pakistan Election Commission are the complete Electoral Lists for Sanghar which includes the home constituency of the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Deh Khani Mangrio, Tehsil Khipro, Sanghar District.

Mr Junejo's name heads the list of 1,217 voters — male 617 and females 600 — out of which 972 are Muslim voters and 245 Hindu/Scheduled Caste voters. There are no voters of any other religious group or community in this village.

/13104

CSO: 4600/294

RESERVED JOBS FOR SINDHIS DEMANDED

Karachi. DAWN in English 3 Aug 87 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 2: The Working Committee of the National Democratic Party has called for reserving all posts in various federally-administrated departments working in Sind agencies, as well as provincial services, for the local people.

Those from outside the province who are employed in Sind should be returned to their home provinces, it said.

The executive adopted several resolutions moved by the Sind NDP Seceretary-General, Mr Mirza Shahryar, on various issues relating to Sind. They were released here on Sunday.

Through a resolution, the NDP reiterated its demand that the mineral resources of oil, gas, etc., found in a province should be used strictly for the betterment of that province.

The executive protested against the police excesses on the innocent and unarmed people of Karachi,

and blamed the Government for condemning anti-people activities of the goonda elements in order to browbeat the scared population.

It demanded that in the police service and other departments not only the Sindhi-speaking but also the Urdu-speaking Sindhis should be employed.

The NDP executive also said that admissions to various educational institutions in Sind should be reserved for the local students. Besides, students unions should be restored and interference by the authorities in the affairs of educational institutions be stopped.

Another resolution called for doing away with the cantonments at Kashmore and Pannu Akil and restoring the lands to the owners.

The executive expressed concern at the inadequate help given to the famine-affected people of Thar and urged that attention be focussed on digging a canal and solving the water problem on a permanent basis.

/13104

CSO: 4600/294

SIND LOCAL ELECTIONS: READJUSTMENT OF SEATS EXPLAINED

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Aug 87 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug 5: Minorities are the main beneficiary of the increase in the number of seats approved by the Sind Government for the various tiers of the local bodies in the province for the forthcoming LB polls next autumn.

Out of the estimated addition of over 90 seats all over the province, the share of the minorities (Hindus) is well over 80, a study shows.

This is because the detailed 1981 Census figures which were not available at the time of the last LB polls in 1983 have now become available and the minorities have been given their due share under the law.

Most of the increase in the minorities seats have occurred in lower Sind i.e. the districts of Sanghar, Tharparkar, and Badin.

However, two additional seats have also fallen to them in Karachi Division — one in the KMC Council and the other in Karachi District Council.

In Karachi, the electorate will now send up 204 councillors to the KMC Council in the coming elections. The previous house had 202 directly elected councillors.

The Minorities were represented by five councillors. Now they will

have six. The other seats will be filled up by a Muslim.

Both additional seats have gone to Karachi East District. While the extra minorities seat is owing to the 1981 Census figures, the extra Muslim seat is because of the inclusion of certain areas of Malir Cantonment in the KMC limits.

The additional seat to the minorities in Karachi District Council is again on account of their share according to population. Previously, the KDC had an all-Muslim house of 35. It is now raised to 36 including one non-Muslim councillor.

In this connection it is relevant to point out that in the 1983 LB polls, the five minorities seats in KMC Council were on the basis of Karachi taken as a whole. This time, these have been apportioned district-wise: three going to Karachi South, two to East, and one to West-Central Districts combined.

The additional seats sanctioned for the minorities in the other municipal/town committees and district councils are in the districts of Hyderabad (2), Tharparkar (6), Khairpur (2), Thatta (3), and Sanghar (5).

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CSO: 4600/296

COMMENTARY SAYS ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS ARE 'REGIONAL MILITAS'

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 87 p 9

[Article by Ayaz AMir]

[Text] IN RAREFIED circles — political or intellectual — it has become commonplace to say that under General Ziaul Haq the ground rules of politics have changed. Often made, this statement is seldom pursued to its logical conclusions.

If the political ground rules have changed (presumably on a permanent basis), it follows that old politics has become useless and is, therefore, worthy of being discarded. Also, that political parties and their leaderships have become redundant. Casting a look over the political horizon one is tempted to agree with this analysis. When Martial Law was still in force, political parties held out a promise of great things to come. They seemed the custodians of truth and the harbingers of a new dawn. Alas, those hopes have been sadly blighted. The political leadership is what it has always been — a collection of tired and dispirited men (and women) speaking in an idiom which has passed out of fashion, and talking of goals which have ceased to have the excitement that alone goads men to extraordinary action. The ground rules have changed with a vengeance.

Mass disillusionment

No political party has escaped the consequences of mass disillusionment. Each is as out of tune with the requirements of the present situation as any other. The smaller parties in

the MRD exist only by default, because they have the name of a broad coalition to exploit. Disband the coalition and parties like the Qaumi Mañaz-i-Azadi, the Mazdoor Kissan Party and the Pakistan Democratic Party will be swept off the landscape altogether. The religious parties have their parochial constituencies, nothing more. The Awami National Party which held great promise at the time of its formation has gradually settled back into the grooves from which its various components arose. It has not been able to add to its numbers or to ensure that Wali Khan, its Chairman, steps out of the shadow of the past. Wali Khan continues to fight the battles of yesterday. The 1947 referendum in the Frontier and the dismissal of the Khan Sahib Ministry can still drive him to the further reaches of passion and fury. This is not the mark of a successful politician.

Not a party of change

The PPP, too, has suffered its share of disillusionment. It is not the party of change or renewal that many people in their naivete supposed it to be. But to be fair, the fault is less of the PPP than of its fixated admirers. With no alternative before them, they saw the PPP through all the colours of the rainbow, attributing to it qualities and strengths it never possessed and could never possess. Realising that the walls of

Jericho are not about to tumble, their bitterness is profound. But they have no one to blame but themselves.

It is not surprising under the circumstances that the initiative is no longer with the political parties. That has been amply proved by their ineffectual performance over every question that has arisen during the last twelve months; the budget, the acquisition of AWACS, the regime's Afghan policy or the continuing strife and turmoil in Karachi. The initiative has passed to regional militias which have sprung up to take the place of the political parties.

Afghan refugees

In the Frontier, there are Afghan refugees armed to a man whose importance as a militant presence inside the country (forget about the jihad in Afghanistan) will grow with the passage of time. The ANP in the Frontier is also a regional party still revolving around its old Red Shirt strongholds in Mardan and Char-sadda.

The rise of the regional militias is most apparent in Sind, especially Karachi which before our eyes is turning into another Beirut. The most powerful militia is that of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement. Mohajir consciousness has found expression in a new militancy which has transformed the political map of Pakistan's largest city. The rise of the MQM has eclipsed the standing of the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan which used to divide Karachi between them once upon a time.

The MQM has a proven skill at mass mobilisation. It has the capacity to bring Hyderabad to a standstill and paralyse large parts of

Karachi. It is also an organisation which recognises the power of the gun. Its armed auxiliaries constitute a formidable force.

Jeay Sind

The Jeay Sind Movement in the interior of the province is another regional militia devoted to the cult of the gun. Its popularity at the mass level might be limited but its armed wing dominates colleges and universities in Sind. The Jeay Sind Students Federation has reduced the Sind People's Students Federation and the numerous other Leftist organisations into a position of impotence.

With the Punjab still following old politics, regional militias have yet to catch on in its wide expanses. The Islami Jamiat-i-Talaba, however, is little different from a Beirutian militia. It has its tightly knit cadres who have seldom been reluctant to use strong-arm tactics against their opponents.

The Tehrik Nifaz-i-Fiqah Jafaria is also an organisation which can call upon the services, whenever needed, of a significant number of armed followers.

The Jamiat Ahle Hadith, too, has its "lath bardar" force. Processions brought out by the Jamiat after the death of Allama Ehsan Elahi Ziaheer were usually preceded by young men armed with Kalashnikovs.

Since this trend is likely to continue, there is still time for political activists and idealists to say goodbye to their respective parties, which are of no use in the present set-up, and join the militias of their choosing. The choice is vast and enough to satisfy people of the most diverse inclinations.

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CSO: 4600/297

RETURN OF REFUGEES DEMANDED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Aug 87 p 6

[Text]

LAHORE, July 31: The Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqah-e-Jaffaria, staged a demonstration and marched on the main city road to protest over massacre of local population at the hand of Afghan refugees. The demonstrators, demanded to sent back Afghan refugees as they involved in smuggling of narcotics, arms and were engaged in the subversive activities in Pakistan on the instance of America. The demonstrators set to fire an American flag and chanted slogans against America, the USSR and Gen Ziaul Haq.

The demonstrators also raised slogans against Engineer Hikmat Yar and described him as American agent.

The demonstration was organised by the TNFJ, started at Masjid-e-Shuhada, on the Shahrah Quaid-e-Azam, after Jumma prayers, and continued for more than two hours.

They were holding banners, and placards read as 'The Afghan deserter-go back' 'Guests have become problem for hosts' 'People are demanding-step down from government'.

Addressing the demonstrators the speakers said that the so called leaders of Afghan refugees had caused considerable damage to the Islamic movement by trying to make it 'American movement'. They alleged that the Afghan refu-

gees, were involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan, so they should be sent back. They said that a wrong impression was being given that the fighting which erupted in Parachinar, few days back was a sectarian clash between the Shia and Sunni. They explained that trouble started when local population refused to pay 'goonda tax' to Afghan refugees. The speakers demanded action against the Political Agent of the Kurram Agency.

Syed Munir Hussain Shah, said that a deep rooted conspiracy had been evolved by America, to tear to peaces, the unity of peoples of Pakistan, for the very reason Shia-Sunni sectarian clash occurred during last Muharram. He said that the bomb blasts on March 23, 1987 in the Jamiat Ahle Hadith meeting and on July 5, 1987 a day before TNFJ Quran-o-Sunnat conference and then blasts in Karachi all these are chains of one conspiracy. He said that the American CIA was behind all these incidents.

Maulana Mohammad Shafi Najfi said that the government had failed to protect the lives and property of the Pakistani citizens. Criticising the role of Afghan nationals in Pakistan he said that these 'guests' had crossed the limits of hospitality, and as such they were violating the Islamic principles.

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CSO: 4600/288

AGREEMENT SAID REACHED ON BIHARIS' REPATRIATION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Aug 87 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 31: A delegation of Rabita Al-Alam Al-Islami (Muslims World League) called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo here on July 28 to discuss and thrash out the modalities of the rehabilitation of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh.

Headed by its Assistant Secretary General, Sayed Amin Aqeel Attas the delegation comprised Sardar Abdul Qayyum, President Azad Kashmir, Maulana Zafar Ahmad Ansari, Justice (Retd) Mohammad Afzal Cheema, Syed Hasan Muthahar, Chief Editor Muslim World League Journal and S.M. Huda a financial expert.

In a press statement, the Rabita Al-Alam Al-Islami said: "We have reached an agreement that we shall soon have a Rabita Trust to attend to this problem and to raise the required funds from individuals and organisations both in and outside Pakistan".

"It is a matter of great pleasure and satisfaction that the Prime Minister wholeheartedly approved the formation of a high-powered Trust to accomplish the desired objective at an early date. The Trust

will be established and registered in Pakistan with its headquarters in Islamabad".

The Rabita expressed thanks to the Prime Minister for his cooperation and help in pursuing this noble task. The statement said:

"We are also obliged to the President, Gen Ziaul Haq, who has assured of his patronage and assistance in bringing stranded Pakistani brethren to their cherished homeland and rehabilitating them here in accordance with our own commitment as well as the policy declarations of the Pakistan Government.

According to the statement, President Zia offered the first token donation of Rs 1 million towards the funds of the Trust.

It is relevant to point out here that despite the huge hue and cry raised at different forums, the fate of the stranded Pakistanis still hangs in balance. Many demonstrations have been taken out in Karachi demanding their rehabilitation here pleading that they suffered a lot for Pakistan. But on the contrary, no concrete step has so far been taken at the official level for their rehabilitation in Pakistan.

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CSO: 4600/288

STRICT CONTROL OVER ARMS URGED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE distribution of licenced and unlicensed arms throughout the country has reached such a state that today Pakistan appears to be virtually an armed camp. Whether weapons are used for protection, for dacoities, for confrontation with other groups, or to carry out family or tribal vendettas, in each case, they threaten life. In the hands of an irresponsible police, they become instruments of wholesale killing. In some places, the strictness under which the police previously used their weapons, under the supervision of a Magisterial authority, seems no longer to hold. Nowadays it appears they do not have to give a full account of a bullet used to the higher authorities and the necessity of it. That apparently happened in Karachi and Hyderabad and other towns of Sind; it also reportedly happened in Lahore. Under British colonial rule, the occupying force denied lethal armaments to people to preserve peace. Rifles were tabu; only .12 bore guns were given on licence and that too when an applicant's 'worthiness' to hold one was fully established and guaranteed. High-calibre rifles were permitted in special cases for big game-hunting. Pistols and revolvers were scarcely allowed, except to ex-armymen and a few other categories of people. In fact there were such few firearms about that there were not enough to be used, except for hunting.

The position has now reversed. Anyone it seems can possess not one but many kinds of firearms. A Karachi doctor when his house was searched produced two rifles, two 12 bore guns and 2 revolvers, all licenced, including a revolver of a "prohibited bore". Why the last one? The .45 bore can only be handled by the army and the .38 bore by the Police, hence they are prohibited bores. Big zamindars often keep an arsenal, licenced or unlicenced. They use it in their

personal vendettas or to impose their tyranny over their tenants. For the poor man, the gun is beyond his reach. First he can hardly obtain a licence, and second, if somehow he manages to do so, the firearm is beyond the reach of his pocket. So, he is always on the receiving end of terror, from whatever source.

The present "democratic government" of Pakistan took the first initiative in issuing an order that licences should be issued freely on the recommendations of the MNAs and MPAs. Who were they arming these people against? One should not forget that if there is a weapon, it is most likely to be used and can be done so illegally or for a crime. The Government has reaped what it sowed. Often one licenced arm can breed many unlicenced ones, either through forgery or to meet the minimum requirements of self-defence. For offence or for defence, the country has many secret stocks of that Russian horror, the Klashnikov, either smuggled from Afghanistan or made in the Kohat or Darra factories. To bring back peace, all arms must be confiscated. Bangladesh succeeded in collecting all arms like that in one year after 1972. But here this can only happen if there is the will to do so.

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CSO• 4600/287

REPORT DESCRIBES GUN INDUSTRY IN DARRA ADAM KHEL

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 p 4

[Article by Julia Wilkinson]

[Text]

**"WHAT DO you want madam?
Rifle, pistol, pen pistol, stick
gun, hash or heroin?"**

Cradling a Kalashnikov in his lap, the young man points inside his shop where the walls are lined with guns, the tables covered with pistols. From the ceiling hang bandoliers and gun brushes, cartridge belts and shoulder holsters. "Step right in!" he says cheerfully, as a volley of gun-fire comes from the shop next door. "Can I offer you a cup of tea?"

Welcome to Darra Adam Khel, the centre of indigenous arms manufacture in Pakistan. It doesn't look much of a place: a one-street town of two-storeyed buildings, litter-strewn gutters, the main road choked with traffic, mud-walled back alleys leading out to a dry wasteland fringed with low-lying barren mountains.

But as many as 400 rifles and 300 pistols are thought to be made here daily: put together, largely by hand, in tiny, dark workshops scattered throughout the town and in nearby villages.

On Darra's main street almost every shop sells guns. Indeed, there is little else, apart from "chai" houses where you're as likely to be asked if you want hashish as tea, and where your answer is equally likely to be drowned by the sound of yet another gun being tested.

Some 26 miles south of Peshawar in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, and near the Afghanisthan border, Darra is in the Kohat Frontier Region, one of four such regions, and seven agencies in the NWFP that are autonomous tribal areas.

Under a practice established by the British, the tribesmen of these areas — mostly Pushto-speaking

Pathans — pay no taxes, obey no laws but their own tribal traditions, known as puktoonwali and can carry, make, buy, and sell arms in their region without any restrictions.

According to tribal custom, a gun is as important to a Pathan as his sense of tribal loyalty and honour. Every Pathan, in fact, is his own policeman. In these areas, the federal government law only applies to the main road, the railway line and the administrative settlements. Beyond these it's every man for himself.

The one-and-a-half hour bus ride from Peshawar to, Darra gives no clue that you are entering such a lawless land: there are docile water buffalo in the fields, rice ripening to a brilliant green, and neat, round haystacks in well-cultivated fields. But soon you start to notice that all the settlements are fort villages — each enclosed by thick, tall walls, with watch-towers in the corners and gunslits in every direction.

Foreign visitors to places such as Darra are considered to be enough at risk to require a special permit from the Home Secretary of the NWFP. These are valid for one day and specifically for daylight hours only. There is a check post on the tribal frontier three miles from Darra but on my visit no one checked anything.

It is, of course, illegal to take an unlicensed gun from Darra into a settled area such as Peshawar. But smuggling is rampant and it's well known that Darra is in professional rivalry with nearby Bara in the business of smuggling. Both have special "carriers", expert smugglers who can bring anything in and out of the area.

Meanwhile, Darra's gunmaking industry is thriving. There are said

to be as many as 40,000 people in and around Darra who are now involved in manufacturing arms. The trade started about 100 years ago, although according to one story, it was a Punjabi criminal on the run who was the pioneer and who trained the Pathan Afridi tribesmen.

At first, Darra's guns were supplied mainly to the tribal belt. But nearby conflicts have brought bigger business: the Afghan Mujahideen insurgents are thought to have started their war with Darra guns. Many still use them.

"Just give us a copy and we can make any kind of gun," says 38-year-old Saleem Khan, a Darra gunmaker for 15 years who produces at least five Kalashnikov copies a month. "Whatever you want we can do for you: rifles, hand guns, Kalashnikov, even M16s, anti-aircraft and rocket launchers. The longest we need to make a gun is about 20 days for a Kalashnikov automatic. All other hand guns we can do within a week or so."

In the old days, Darra's gun makers did everything by hand. Now machines are brought from Taxila and Lahore. But you can still see young boys working gun greasers by hand or shaving wood for rifle stocks while the older men often in teams, concentrate on the more complicated parts.

"Every gun-maker has his own speciality," says Gul Jamal, who started making guns when he was 18. "Mine is the 7mm gun. It's very easy to make." The 7mm, however, has had its day in Darra.

The fashion now is for Kalashnikov. Every middle-and upper-class man in Peshawar owns one. No Pathan would be seen dead without one. Original Kalashnikovs are available in Darra (as are a wide variety of other models from Russia, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Japan, China and Britain), but they cost two or three times as much as the Darra copies: a fully automatic Darra Kalashnikov, for example, now sells for about Rs. 6,000 (about US \$353), compared to about Rs. 17,000 (about US\$1,000) for the original.

Darra rifles cost between \$70 and \$176 while less popular .32 calibre pistols sell for just \$30. Pen guns, using 25-bore calibre cartridges and looking exactly like a fat fountain pen, with "Made in Japan" marked on the side, are mainly sold as gimmicks or gifts.

Not all Darra's customers are out to kill. Many buy Darra guns for self-protection in the tribal areas, for status symbols, for hunting birds and animals or even, as a sideline, for the traditional Pathan gunfire celebration at weddings. But for gunmakers like Saleem, a customer's motives for buying a gun hardly matters.

"Of course I sometimes wonder how many people have been killed with our guns," he concedes, "but, after all, I like to make money. I make a good living as a gun-maker. I'm richer than a farmer or a clerk. Those selling guns in the shops are even richer. So we ask no questions. We're not concerned whether the customer is a good or bad man. Even if he's a bad man, we will sell him a gun. That's our business."

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CSO 4600/288

MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW ARMS LICENSE POLICY

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug 2: The Federal Interior Minister, Malik Naseem Aheer, announced here today a new policy for issuing arms licences for all the districts in the country.

He said that Deputy Commissioners will issue ten licences on the recommendations of the members of National Assembly every month after proper verification of the Superintendent of Police.

The Minister said that the number of arms and ammunition existing in the society had reached an alarming proportion. The Government of Pakistan Muslim League will make all-out efforts for ensuring law and order and creating a sense of security among the masses.

Mr Aheer said that he has taken the new charge of the Ministry of Interior a few days ago. He said he would give utmost priority to evolve a dependable security system in the country.

The Minister was speaking at the Muslim League Central Secretariat where a number of people gave him applications.

To a question the Minister said that he was of the view that Afghan refugees should be kept in the camps and they should not be allowed to mix up with other people. Some foreigners had purchased "National Identity Cards" at a cost of Rs. 3,000 each. All these would be cancelled. He asked the people to raise collective issues rather than individual problems. —APP

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CSO: 4600/294

MULTINATIONALS BLAMED FOR EXTENT OF PRICE INCREASES

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 17 Jun 87 p 2

[Article in the "Early Morning" column by Nazir Naji: "This is a Billion Rupee Game"]

[Text] I must apologize for writing on several occasions about matters relating to the budget, but this subject is so vast and its effects on the life of the common man and the national economy are so wide and deep that anyone interested in public issues cannot ignore it. Things started to go wrong when the budget was presented. The experts have to remember two things when preparing the budget: 1) in our country, the budget is not considered a tax bill presented to the assembly and the taxes detailed in it as proposals; instead, as soon as the budget is announced, it is put into effect; and 2) our society is an orderly one; we have no social organizations and the machinery is not effective in controlling prices. Events so far have followed a predictable course; whenever, under one pretext or another, prices go up and the people start to protest, the government immediately takes some meaningless steps, following which both the people and the government become accustomed to the situation and fall silent. The annual budget period is a good opportunity for raising prices. Industrialists, rental property owners, merchants and stockpilars wait all year for this opportunity to hide behind the budget and attack the pocketbooks of consumers. The ministry of Finance has shown ingenuity in searching out additional sources of revenue in the budget in such a way as not to give these people the opportunity to launch their attack from ambush, or failing that, at least to limit their opportunity. In spite of our differences, I will acknowledge without hesitation that Ghulam Ishaq Khan fooled the people successfully for several years. Perhaps he has had a hand in the deception this time as well, but the target of deception has changed.

Multinationals play an important part in Pakistan's economy, and these companies encourage price gouging as well. I shall illustrate my point with an example. I did my research in Lahore, and the prices pertain to that area.

New taxes affected the beverage industry as follows:

Defense tax: 5 percent

New sales tax: 12.5 percent

Rises in the prices of gas, electricity and gasoline occurred at various rates. The approximate rise in price per crate as a result of the taxes was as follows:

Gas and electricity: 3 paisas per crate.

Transportation: 10 paisas per crate.

Anticipated rise in production expenses under new taxes: 1 rupee 80 paisas per crate.

The rise in the price per crate was thus 12 rupees; that is, the tax on each bottle rose by 50 paisas. Theoretically, the factory owners should have increased their prices by the same amount, but they carried their prices to the extreme. The Pakistani beverage suppliers did not increase their prices much, but the international brandholders really went overboard; they increased the price of each crate by 26 rupees in other words, they made an additional profit of 14 rupees on a 12-rupee tax. There was no justification for this action because, according to our calculations, 1 rupee 80 paisas were already included in the 12 rupees as additional expenses. The Pakistani juice suppliers proved to be decent people; they increased the price of a crate by 15 rupees. This difference illustrates the attitudes of Pakistani and foreign companies.

After the expiration of the defense tax, the cost of each crate of bottles was reduced by 2 rupees 80 paisas, but the government maintains that it will roll back prices to the 3 June level. How will this be possible? The government now suggests that the crates of bottles be sold at 67 rupees each; in other words, the government has accepted in principle a rise in prices above the level of the tax, since after the removal of the defense tax, real taxes increased by 8 rupees 40 paisas. But the government is accepting an increase of 11 rupees. Let us suppose that the government has anticipated, as I did, a rise in wages and has added the amount of 1 rupee 80 paisas to the price of each crate. The first question to be asked here is, when determining the new rate, does the government guarantee as well that wages will be raised? Second, on what grounds is the increase of 80 paisas being allowed?

The irony of the situation is that the factories have increased prices, but it is the small shopkeeper who is being arrested. As a result, the shopkeepers have stopped selling bottles altogether. On the one hand, the government is allowing factory owners to raise prices by 2 rupees 40 paisas per crate without any justification; on the other hand, it is arresting the poor shopkeepers. What can one call this except harebrained? A similar situation exists in regard to cigarettes. Here, also, the multinational connection exists. The readers will have deduced from the example cited of the rise in the price of bottles that under an equal tax, Pakistani nationals add a profit of 3 rupees per crate, whereas foreign companies add 14 rupees per crate. What will be the outcome? Pakistani companies will be encouraged to follow suit, and this is actually happening. Foreign companies hand out bribes all round and reap a profit of 14 rupees, minus 5 or 6 rupees, and have rates set the way they want them; that is, 3 times the 3 rupees set by the Pakistanis. The Pakistani companies will follow the example of the foreign companies in the future

and raise their rates to the same level. This small example illustrates the extent of the multinational looting. These multinational companies own numerous industries in Pakistan: cigarettes, soap, toothpaste, drugs, chemicals, agricultural chemicals and even toothbrushes are manufactured by these companies. This should give an idea of what must have gone on in secret to influence the budget. This is no small game. The budget imposed a burden of 100 billion rupees on the people through the rise in prices. The government's share was only 22 billion rupees, of which the government gave up 18 billion rupees, being afraid to spend any more. The remaining 78 billion rupees had to wind up in the pockets of market forces, and 60 billion out of the 78 billion rupees ended up with foreign companies and their agents. If the multinationals should use 10 billion rupees from this amount to influence policies and decisions, what difference will it make?

I will not go any further, except to say that it is not easy to understand the mechanism of modern economic forces. Dr Mahloobul Haq and Prof Khurshid Ahmad are the only two members of the present parliament who understand this mechanism. Perhaps some others understand as well, but their performance remains to be seen.

9863/9190

CSO: 4656/93

BANK LOAN WRITEOFFS TERMED 'STINKING SCANDAL'

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 30 Jul 87 p 7

[Text] AMONG other means employed for speedy capital accumulation with the minimum of effort, the most direct – and seemingly the simplest – is that of looting banks.

The modalities devised for carrying out this task fall into two broad categories. The first is generally described as bank robbery. The requirements of this operation are easily manageable: a few Klashnikov rifles, a band of intrepid and determined men, one or two get-away cars – the most fashionable being Pajeros –, and timing that ensures reasonable safety. The modus operandi is direct and needs no master mind to plan it. The gang walks into the chosen bank, preferably on a day when its cash boxes are known to be full, and the leader demands the transfer of money without any formalities. At times, blood is spilt when a manager tries overtly to press the alarm button (where such a device exists), or a guard tries to do his duty by using his gun (if loaded and operational). But violence is not commonly considered essential for success, more often than not, a show of force is sufficient to guarantee the desired results.

Safer methods

The second category of bank loot is seen to be a little more complicated but far less dangerous. A variety of method are utilised quite effectively. Documents relating to the transfer of funds from abroad have acquired a tendency to get lost, and the money somehow

finds its way into the pockets of the banks' agents, particularly when dealing with semi-literate persons, and their collaborators in the receiving banks. The main essential in all these cases is to find a friendly bank and co-operative bankers. Direct cheating takes the form of forged cheques, bogus accounts overdrawn with the connivance of clerks, 'errors' in accounting which credit the wrong accounts with moneys received, and so on. However, the bigger, more stylish, bank robbers do not stoop to such petty theft and thus avoid the risk of getting caught. They prefer the far safer method of obtaining huge bank loans, with little security and doubtful collateral; and then when the time comes they do not, saying they cannot, pay back the sums borrowed. For this operation influence at a higher level is a prerequisite; this can be political clout or bureaucratic connections, or, when these are not available, the job can be done on direct understanding on the basis of profit-sharing. The system works well because, after a decent interval, the loan is written off as a bad debt.

Confidentiality

The State Bank Governor has revealed that Pakistan's commercial banks, mostly the nationalised institutions, have outstanding long-term debts to the extent of Rs. 30 billion. It was also reported that Rs. 15 billion has been written off by banks, obviously because it was

owed by influential persons who became indigent soon after borrowing millions of rupees; and that about Rs. 8.62 million was stolen through bank frauds during the year 1986-87. Of course, the burden of this unchecked bank loot falls on the people either because as depositors they are made to pay higher service charges and receive smaller profits, or on account of direct losses to the exchequer when State-owned institutions are defrauded. The loot continues unchecked because non-payment of such large debts is treated as an official secret. No less a person than the Finance Minister has declared that these transactions were of a confidential nature and could not, therefore, be revealed; not even to the parliamentary committee which is investigating corruption.

The whole situation reveals a stinking scandal. If Parliament owes any responsibility to the public, it must not let matters rest; if necessary the laws should be changed to make sure that no category of bandit can get away with his loot.

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CSO: 4600/297

COMMENTARY VIEWS MANPOWER EXPORT POLICY

Karachi. DAWN in English 6 Aug 87 p 15

[Text] CONCERN is rightly felt in official circles over the declining trend in employment of Pakistanis in overseas markets, increasing number of returning expatriates and the consequent fall in remittances from abroad. Several factors have contributed to the present situation, chief among them being the steep fall in demand, consequent upon a sharp decline in oil incomes, for foreign workers in the main manpower importing countries of the Middle East and the competition offered by workers from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India who accept lower wages and are in some cases better trained and more disciplined. The majority of the workers had until recently been employed in host countries in the construction sector which had grown phenomenally in the wake of the oil boom. This sector had absorbed a large number of unskilled workers who, with the tapering off of demand, have become redundant. With some industrialisation and a degree of sophistication in trade and professions having been achieved, the demand has shifted from unskilled to skilled and professional manpower.

Measures to face this emerging situation should have been taken at our end at the appearance of the first signs.

However, aimlessness was allowed to continue until manpower export dwindled to 62,000 in 1986 as against 168,403 in 1981. The Government has now formulated a manpower export policy, launching a multi-pronged attack on the problem. Announcing the policy, the Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis said that agreements with Jordan, Qatar and Mozambique had been signed for export of manpower to these countries and possibilities of concluding similar agreements with other countries with close traditional ties with Pakistan were being explored. Licensing of overseas employment promoters would be liberalised to encourage competition, making the renewal of their licences conditional upon securing a minimum prescribed number of jobs. A vigilance cell is proposed to be set up in the Ministry to oversee the performance of these promoters and check unethical practices. Surveys will be conducted in various manpower importing countries to assess the potential, study the trends and skill requirements in the labour market and, in the light of findings, provide guidance and advice to the promoters.

An essential ingredient of the policy is the restructuring of the training programmes.

The object is to ensure that workers are trained to meet the specific skill requirements as assessed by surveys and studies of the Middle East countries. The Government has launched a national vocational training project at a cost of Rs 4.25 million. Six training centres have been set up, in addition to the existing 31 having been expanded and suitably equipped. Thirtysix more training centres would be established during the next eight years at a cost of Rs 2,041 million. The annual output, after the completion of the project, is expected to be 24,000 trained hands. It is to be hoped, however, that, in creating the new facilities, the emphasis will be less on brick and mortar and more on equipment and the quality of instructors. The urgency in respect of the vocational training centres does not proceed from the requirements of the manpower importing countries alone but also from the demands of domestic trades and industry in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Following the boom in the Gulf and the Middle East countries, Pakistan saw the de-

parture of a large number of skilled people from essential vocations such as masonry, plumbing, carpentry, electro-mechanical work and so on. These vocations experienced an acute shortage and the gap has not been filled yet. As and when these technicians return they may not come back to their old professions because of the vast difference in working conditions and remuneration here. Apart from this fact, trades and industry otherwise suffer from the shortage of middle-level technicians as facilities for their training are almost non-existent. Whatever training is imparted is being done by the dying institution of individual mastercraftsmen to their apprentices. It is time the Government set up more and more vocational institutions to meet the needs of both domestic and export markets. This will also lessen the pressure on institutions of formal education, most of which follow a generalised pattern of instruction not oriented towards the country's many and varied needs for skills and specialities.

/13104

CSO: 4600/296

OIL FIND NEAR HYDERABAD REPORTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by Tariq Butt]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 30: Chaudhry Nisar Ali, Minister of State for Petroleum, announced on Thursday the first oil discovery of the current financial year by the Oil & Gas Development Corporation at Thora near Hyderabad.

He told a hurriedly-convened news conference here that the source would be producing 2500 barrels of oil per day within a week's time. The crude will be transported to a Karachi refinery through bowzers.

Chaudhry Nisar said the well was spudded on June 25 and after completion of drilling to the target depth of 2219 meters, production testing was carried out. After 41 days of the spudding of the well, the potential of oil was observed.

The Thora oil field according to the Minister is a sub-surface structure spreading over an area of about five square kilometers and is located 26 KM South-east of Hyderabad. The location was selected on the basis of extensive geological, geophysical and laboratory investigations. The field falls in the Sanghar concession of the OGDC.

The Minister said a couple of months would be needed to assess the real potential of the well. He disclosed that another well would be spudded in Thora field within the current financial year.

He admitted that there had been decrease in the oil production because of depletion of some sources, but the overall production of 42,000 bpd had not been affected and which would now stand at 44,500.

The Minister said the discovery had, so far, cost Rs. 15 million which was provided by the government as grant. He added that it would save 60,000 US dollars per day which the government paid for its import.

Answering a question, he said the drastic restructuring of the OGDC would be done within this year to streamline its working.

APP ADDS: It is the fourth Oil and Gas Discovery by (OGDC) in its Sanghar and Wassi concession blocks covering areas of Hyderabad, Sanghar and Mirpurkhas districts. Earlier in this area OGDC discovered two oil-fields namely: Tando Alam and Ghotana fields which are already on production. During the current financial year i.e. 1987-88, this is the first oil discovery in the country. In financial year 1986-87, OGDC made three discoveries namely, Ghotana, Chak Naurang and Lashari (south).

Discovering of oil and Thora is an important event for exploration efforts being made by OGDC in Hyderabad, Sanghar and Mirpur areas. As a result of extensive surveys conducted in these areas, OGDC has delineated a number of similar leads which are promising prospects for testing oil and gas potential in future. The movement of rig on one such lead namely Kunar has already been started where the drilling of exploratory well is expected to commence by August 1, 1987.

/9274

CSO: 4600/287

BRIEFS

NOTICE TO AFGHAN OFFICES--The District Administration has extended the notice period for another one month given to the Afghan refugees organisations to enable them to make necessary arrangements for shifting of their offices from Quetta to their camps in Pishin District, the Deputy Commissioner, Quetta informed here one Monday. It may be mentioned that all the offices of the Afghan Refugees Organisation in Quetta city were sealed on Sunday on the expiry of notice served to them by the local administration. The organisations included: Hizbe Islami (Hikmat Yar Group) Hizbe Islami (Molvi Yunus Khalis group) Jamiat Islami (Prof Rabbani group), Ittehad Islami (Prof Sayaf group) Harkat Inqilab Islami (Molvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi), Mahaz Milli Islami (Pir Gilani) and Jubbah Nijat Milli (Sibghatullah Mujaddi). [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Aug 87 p 1] /13104

ZIA URGED TO RESIGN--Lt-Gen (rtd) Azam Khan, a former Governor of the then East Pakistan, urged Gen. Zia-ul-Haq to resign as President as well as from the office of the Chief of the Army Staff as "he has failed in both capacities." In a Press statement here on Monday Mr Azam Khan said that while a national conciliation was the need of the hour the rulers were not prepared for it. "With the gulf in the mutual understanding widening and polarisation deepening, the nation was facing a deep crisis which might result in an upsurge." He also criticised certain political parties for what he called an attitude of indifference. Gen. Azam Khan was of the view that the suspension of the US aid for 105 days, which he attributed to "the defective foreign policy," would lead to adverse economic implications. "The deepening political and economic crisis will result in the popular resentment which may deteriorate the conditions," he added. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Aug 87 p 10] /13104

SHARIAT BILL READING POSTPONED--The Senate on Sunday deferred the second reading of the private members Shariat Bill till the next session. The decision was taken on the request of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad Jan, who said that in the absence of the movers, the bill should not be discussed. Mr Sajjad said movers of the bill had boycotted the present session of the Senate. Hence, the second reading should be deferred till the next session. He advised the movers to fulfil their constitutional and moral obligations by ending their boycott. Maulana Kausar Niazi also called upon the Government to pass the Shariat Bill with the consensus of all the religious sects. He said the present bill was not acceptable to many religious groups. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 87 p 6] /13107

NEW IDENTITY CARDS--Islamabad, 30 Jul--All national identity cards issued with effect from 1.1.1979 to 31.7.1987 throughout Pakistan are to be reverified under a government decision announced here today. An Interior Ministry Press Note said the decision had been taken to stamp out the threat posed to national security by foreign nationals indulging in acts of terrorism and sabotage. The Press Note gave a schedule according to which the holders will surrender their cards to their respective registration officers and submit fresh application forms. New identity cards will be issued after verification of the registration forms by the concerned SP (Superintendent Police) in respect of applicants residential address and national status. The Interior Ministry advised the public to cooperate with the registration and police authorities in the 'momentous task' in their own interest as well as in the interest of national security. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 4600/287

SLFP STATEMENT CRITICIZES TAMIL PEACE PROPOSAL

BK071630 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jul 87 p 11

[25 July SLFP statement issued by Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, SLFP leader, on the India-Sri Lankan peace proposal]

[Text] The Central Committee of the SLFP, which met today, is deeply shocked of the reported proposal to which the government appears to have agreed to link the Northern and Eastern provinces in one Provincial Council as a solution to the terrorist problem.

Previously, the president had categorically stated more than once that he will never agree to this proposal as it is not in the national interest. We are perturbed at the contradictory positions the president is taking in regard to the ethnic issue. His inconsistent policies have resulted in a total loss of trust and confidence--locally and internationally--in his ability to find a meaningful solution to the problem.

We are greatly alarmed as the proposed concessions amount to a surrender of the sovereign rights of the nation and has disastrous consequences for the Sinhalese and Muslims. In fact it is difficult to comprehend the president agreeing to these proposals which are vehemently offered by a majority of people of diverse political opinion.

The following aspects merit consideration:

1. If there is to be a linguistic union of the Northern and Eastern Provinces is it not the creation of a virtual Eelam under another name?
2. Would this lead to the demand of creating another linguistic union by the Sinhalese which will accelerate the process of fragmentation of the country and escalate tension among the Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims?
3. In any event, what is the position of the Sinhalese and Muslims in the linguistic union of the new Eelam and who will safeguard their rights and interests?

4. Are we not surrendering one-third of the island with all its wealth, heritage, and resources to the control of an unknown leadership which purports to represent 12 percent of the people.

5. Why are we meekly succumbing to pressure after all loss of lives and shedding of blood during the last few years and sacrifice the interest of the country to a proposal which not even provides a temporary solution but would rather aggravate the problem.

Mr Jayewardene and the UNP Government has no right to barter away one-third of the country in this manner without having obtained a mandate from the people; and we earnestly urge that he desists from this perilous course of action which will imperil our country and the people and especially the generations to come after the president is no more.

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CSO: 4600/290

SRI LANKA

SOUTH ASIA

INDIAN ENVOY ON ROLE OF TROOPS IN JAFFNA

BK311329 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] The Indian troops now in the Jaffna Peninsula are under the command of the Sri Lanka president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene. This was stated by Mr J.N. Dixit, Indian high commissioner, at a news conference held this morning at India House in Colombo. He said the troops are here to fulfill the terms of the agreement in respect of India's obligation. They will withdraw when the Sri Lankan president makes the request.

Mr Dixit said he was confident that peace would be observed by the separatist groups and categorically stated that India would fulfill its part of the obligation. He said all Tamil groups had endorsed the peace accord signed between President Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The presence of Indian troops, he said, follows a specific request to the Indian government. They will ensure the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of arms, and they will not only act according to the stipulations under the agreement. [sentence as heard]

Mr Dixit said that they would not interfere in the existing structure of administration. He explained that the Sri Lankan Government had kept India fully informed of contacts made for security purposes.

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CSO: 4600/289

TAMIL MILITANTS OPPOSED TO INTERIM ADMINISTRATION

BK080605 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Article by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, 8 Aug (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Tamil militants are opposed to any interim administration on the north and east of the island which does not include them, a rebel spokesman said Saturday.

"We will not participate in an administration which is constituted without consulting us and without our participation," Velupillai Balakumar of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) said in a telephone interview from Madras, southern India, where the Tamil groups have their headquarters.

"If an administration is sought to be imposed on us, we will oppose it," the EROS spokesman added.

Sri Lanka announced Thursday that President Junius Jayewardene had decided in principle to appoint an interim administration in the north and east under a peace pact signed 29 July with Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi to end 4 years of bloody ethnic conflict.

The administration would run a new province comprising the Tamil-dominated north and multi-racial east until elections are held by the end of this year.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh said in Parliament Friday that New Delhi hoped Tamil militants would participate in the administration.

Indian peace-keeping troops are stationed in Sri Lanka's north and east to enforce the terms of the accord including a ceasefire and a weapons surrender by the militants.

Mr Balakumar, whose group is allied with the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said the militants had not been officially informed of the decision to have an interim set-up in the north and east.

The LTTE office in Madras declined immediate comment.

But the leader of Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party said he welcomed an interim administration, saying it was "absolutely necessary."

Appapillai Amirthalingam said however that his moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) had also not been informed by New Delhi or Colombo about the proposed panel.

"We are not aware of details," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from Madras, where he has been living in a self-imposed exile since 1983.

"But early steps should be taken to set up the administration and it should have representatives of the Tamil people."

Mr Amirthalingam refused to comment on Indian news reports which said three members of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community had been named as possible nominees in the interim set-up.

(In Colombo, meanwhile, police reported Saturday that four Tamil farmers died when their truck set off a rebel landmine planted before the signing of the peace pact aimed at ending the Tamil separatist struggle.

(The forgotten pressure mine exploded Friday in Mannar District on the north-west of the island, police in the Sri Lankan capital said.

(The deaths were the first major incident reported here since the surrender of arms by Tamil rebels began Wednesday.

In another development, EROS announced a 1-day general strike for Sunday in the north and east to protest the alleged slaying of two of its guerrillas by Sri Lankan Security Forces Tuesday.

Mr Balakumar, a Marxist, said all shops and businesses would shut for the day under the strike call, which would be backed by the LTTE.

Deva, military commander of EROS for Mannar District, and Kugan, were allegedly tortured and killed at the Poonagiri Army Camp while on their way to the northern Jaffna Peninsula to discuss an arms surrender.

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CSO: 4600/290

OFFICIAL LAUDS INDIAN PEACE ACCORD

BK141515 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1448 GMT 14 Aug 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Aug (LANKA PUWATH)--The entire nation should, irrespective of all differences, be beholden to Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene for signing the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord on 29 July between himself and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expeditiously to avoid an Eelam state being created in the northern and eastern regions within a period of 6 months.

Kalawewa MP and Deputy Sri Lankan minister of Lands and Land Development A.M.S. Adikari made this observation when he addressed a series of meetings at Rajangana, Eppawala, Galnewa, and Hiripitiyagama in the Kalawewa electorate Thursday [13 August] and Friday (today), a spokesman for the ministry told LANKA PUWATH today.

These meetings were specially conducted for the purpose of explaining to the people the details and implications of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord signed between Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene and Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi on 29 July to end the ethnic conflict which existed for a period of over 25 years.

Mr Adikari recalled that the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakan pact signed between S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and S.J.V. Chelvanayakam in 1956 was for a permanent merger of north and the east but the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord signed between President J.R. Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi implicated only a temporary merger of the north and the east.

He said that when a referendum will be held before the end of next year to decide whether to continue the merger of the northern and eastern regions, the government is fully confident that the Sinhalese, Batticaloa Tamils, and Muslims in the eastern region will definitely vote against this temporary merger. Under the circumstances the north and the east provincial council idea will be defeated completely. President Jayewardene has afforded an opportunity to all political parties including the UNP to launch an intensive campaign in the east to defeat the temporary merger.

Deputy Minister Adikari stressed that without the support of India, Sri Lanka would have never settled the problem of terrorism. Population wise India had the highest population with 800 million. Tamil Nadu had 60 million. Sri Lanka has a population of only 16 million. If this accord was not signed, Sri Lanka's unity, integrity, and sovereignty would have been seriously affected. The talks held in Bangalore, Thimpu, and in New Delhi by the government to evolve a permanent solution to end the ethnic conflict have miserably failed.

He reminded his audience that India had invaded Sri Lanka 26 times in the past. If the support of India was not sought in solving this problem, there would have been another invasion.

He noted that the SLFP and the MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna] are the only two political parties which opposed the J.R. Jayewardene--Rajiv Gandhi peace accord and regretted that these parties have never put forward a permanent solution to end the ethnic conflict but were virtually out to topple the government which enjoys the fullest confidence of the masses of this country.

He explained that the LSSP's [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] leader Dr Colvin R. de Silva had predicted that the use of two languages in this country will always help maintain the unitary status of Sri Lanka whereas the use of one language will always divide this country. President Jaywardene has acted wisely and he will be named a hero by the people.

Deputy Minister Adikari called upon the people of this country to have implicit faith in President J.R. Jayewardene as he will never betray the masses of this country. The 1978 Constitution has been drafted by him carefully studying the constitutions of several countries and thus embodying several clauses in it.

He deeply regretted that the masses of this country had been badly misled by certain factions totally opposed to the government with a view to achieve their own political aims and objectives. This misconception created in the minds of the masses that the country has been divided, is now being gradually erased from their minds after learning the real implications of the peace accord. Now those involved in acts of arson and causing destruction to government property are repenting for having committed such acts.

Tracing the history of the terrorist activities, Deputy Minister Adikari said that terrorism really began in 1975 during the SLFP's regime when the mayor of Jaffna, Alfred Duraiyappah was brutally done to death by Tamils. The assailants of Duraiyappah have still not been apprehended. The youth involved in the 1971 insurrection hid in the Sinharaja forest while the Tamil youth involved in terrorist activities hid themselves in Tamil Nadu in south India. Therefore it was an extremely difficult task to solve this problem.

He recalled that during the 1971 insurrection, over 20,000 youth were brutally killed by the SLFP government and in order to end this insurrection the Indian Army's assistance was sought for which act the UNP then in the opposition never opposed but supported wholeheartedly.

He asked what harm there was in present government sought the Indian Army's assistance in combating the menace of terrorism which has taken away several valuable lives of army personnel and civilians.

Deputy Minister Adikari emphasised that the government was spending over rupees 10 to 12 billion annually for the purpose of purchasing arms, ammunition, and helicopters to eradicate terrorism and now the government is free to divert this colossal sum towards development and also to increase the salaries of all categories of employees of the public sector.

No country was ready to provide aid to Sri Lanka for development until and unless terrorism was eradicated. Now vast aid will start flowing into Sri Lanka as peace and harmony is being created among the people of all communities and those of different religious faiths throughout the length and breadth of Sri Lanka.

He made an earnest appeal to the people not to entertain any unwanted fears on the peace accord at any cost as President J.R. Jayewardene had the fullest executive powers to remove either any chief minister or any provincial council from office with the implementation of the system of provincial councils when he learnt that they are acting contrary to democratic principles and working against the wishes and aspirations of the people at large.

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CSO: 4600/290

SRI LANKA

SOUTH ASIA

ARMY, POLICE BRACE FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS

BK161640 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 16 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, 16 Aug (AFP)--Sri Lankan security forces will launch a massive operation Monday to deal with expected protests against the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord as delays in the Tamil separatist arms surrender continued, a police spokesman said Sunday [16 August].

Army and police chiefs met here Sunday and agreed on a combined security move in a bid to stifle an anticipated recurrence of majority Sinhalese anti-government demonstrations that left 60 dead after the peace accord was signed on 29 July by India and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan intelligence had reported that opposition groups were planning protests linked to the reconvening Tuesday of the Sri Lankan Parliament, the spokesman said.

Police believe the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP--People's Liberation Front), which violently opposes the government and its peace plan, has stolen about 1,000 firearms in recent weeks.

The Marxist JVP led a 1971 insurrection that was put down with the loss of some 10,000 lives.

Soldiers would be deployed at all entry points into Colombo and search vehicles, the police spokesman said.

The army in the capital would be divided into five sections and put at the disposal of police, he added.

"We will be better prepared and equipped to prevent trouble than last time," he said.

Police were Sunday put on alert in the city centre, where violence first erupted last time.

Demonstrations are banned in Sri Lanka under emergency laws in force since the Tamil separatist conflict erupted in 1983. The laws were supposed to be lifted by Saturday under peace plan provisions.

But Tamil separatists have so far surrendered what military officials believe is only a fraction of the weapons they possess.

Until the Sri Lankan Government feels a realistic amount of rebel arms have been handed over, the emergency cannot be lifted, government officials said.

India, which has a 6,000-strong peace-keeping force in Sri Lanka, continues to express confidence that the rebels will hand over most of their arms.

The Sri Lankan Parliament had been expected to debate a bill on the peace pact from Tuesday, but President Junius Jayewardene has said the bill to set up a united province in the Tamil majority areas of the north and east would not be presented before September or October.

Posters have appeared in Colombo threatening death to any member who votes for the bill.

Parliament is now expected to have to debate another extension of the emergency, which gives police sweeping powers.

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CSO: 4600/290

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON TAMIL ARMS HANDOVER

BK160816 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 16 Aug 87

[From "The Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Efforts by the Sri Lankan Government to persuade Tamil militants to surrender their weapons have (?surged) a step forward. The Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students has now handed over a large quantity of arms to the Indian peace-keeping force in accordance with the terms of the peace agreement signed at the end of last month. Up to now, only the Tamil Tigers have surrendered weapons. From Colombo, (John Rettie) reports on the latest development.

[Begin Rettie recording] The surrender of arms by EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] took place both in the Jaffna peninsula and in the east coast town of Batticaloa. According to Indian diplomatic sources, at least 110 rifles, machineguns, and rocket launchers were handed over, together with mortars, hand grenades, a large quantity of ammunition and perhaps most significantly, a total of 150 kg of gelignite. EROS was considered to have the best bomb-making experts, and was sometimes known as "the bombers." The surrender follows the arrival from Madras recently of EROS leaders in Tamil-speaking areas of the northern and eastern provinces. The Indian Air Force has also flown in leaders of another group, the EPRLF or Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, who have been discussing the surrender of their arms with Indian Army officers. Indian sources said this was expected to start in the next day or two, and the number of arms handed in was expected to increase significantly. Indians have been anxious to get as many weapons as possible surrendered by next Tuesday when parliament reassembles. Some Sinhalese MP's are believed to have been unhappy with the original 3-day deadline for the surrender of arms under the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord which expired a fortnight ago.

In addition to the arms handed over, the security forces at the same time, released, what they said, was the last 36 Tamil prisoners held in two local military camps near Batticaloa. According to Batticaloa sources, Tamil families in the area claimed that at least 50 Tamils had been arrested and taken to the two camps. But the security forces promised that all other detainees held in the district would be released by Wednesday. [end recording]

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CSO: 4600/290

SRI LANKA

SOUTH ASIA

TROOPS INTENSIFY ACTIONS AGAINST MARXIST ACTIVISTS

BK171412 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 17 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, 17 Aug (AFP)--Sri Lankan troops intensified security operations on the south of the island Monday after Marxist activists attacked government targets, officials said.

Forty women were among at least 850 suspected members of the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) arrested in the southern province over the weekend, the officials said.

Police said members of the JVP, which led a bloody insurrection in 1971, attacked a power distribution facility at Deniyaya in Hambantota District Monday and stole three guns.

The JVP has bitterly opposed the government and its Indian-brokered plan to end the Tamil separatist struggle.

A police spokesman, who estimated that the JVP had stolen some 1,000 weapons in numerous raids in recent weeks, said helicopters supported troops looking for an estimated 40 attackers.

On Sunday, troops arrested an armed man found inside a military camp in the north-central Anuradhapura District. Security sources said they were investigating the intruder's connections with the JVP.

In June, the JVP stormed three military bases and removed at least 20 automatic weapons and 2,500 rounds of ammunition, killing one soldier and seriously wounding two others. Three of the raiders were also killed.

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CSO: 4600/290

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

BK070102 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0018 GMT 8 Aug 87

["OANA Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Aug (LANKA PUWATH)--The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international financial institutions and organisations have now come forward to assist Sri Lanka in response to an appeal made by the country, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. announced in its news bulletin tonight.

Sri Lankan minister of finance and planning, Ronnie De Mel told a news conference in Colombo today that a special World Bank mission will arrive in Sri Lanka in September to assess the damage caused to the economy.

The damage caused in the north and the east and also as a result of the recent violence is roughly estimated at 15 billion rupees.

The highways, the railway, and irrigation sectors suffered the worst damage.

A special task force has been created to assess the damage. The secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation Austin Fernando is heading the task force.

A similar special task forces headed by government agents will be established at regional levels.

Mr De Mel said that it will take another 3 years to bring the country back to the level that prevailed before 1983.

The Ministries of Finance and Defence are now studying possible reductions in defence expenditure.

Mr De Mel said that if they had adopted a militaristic approach without the agreement signed last week the country could have surely headed towards a right wing dictatorship.

The minister expressed optimism that the local tourist industry will show progress within the next 1 1/2 years as a result of the peace accord.

Minister De Mel added that Sri Lanka could have developed more than Singapore, Hong Kong, and Korea if open economic policies had been implemented before 1977.

BRIEFS

SITUATION IN TAMIL ZONE--Reports from Sri Lanka say 14 persons have been killed in four different plantation estates in Kaultara and Galle Districts. The secretary of [name indistinct] Workers Congress, a major trade union of plantation workers, told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that violent mobs attacked the estates and killed nine Tamils and five Sinhalese. Twenty-two estate dwelling units of workers were destroyed in the attack which took place on Thursday night and early yesterday. The government has made arrangements to rush food supplies to various areas of the curfew-bound island. The day curfew which was relaxed for 9 hours today will be further relaxed by additional 2 hours tomorrow. No violent incident has been reported from the north and the east of the country where cessation of hostility between Tamil militant groups and government troops came into effect yesterday afternoon. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. has announced 25 locations in these areas where militants laid down arms. According to the Sri Lankan transport minister, the losses suffered by the transport sector during this week's rioting in the island amounted to over 4 billion rupees. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Aug 87] /9599

LTTE-KIDNAPPED POLICEMEN FREED--Colombo, 13 Aug (LANKA PUWATH)--Three policemen who were kidnapped by LTTE terrorists were released today in Jaffna, police told LANKA PUWATH. They were later flown to Colombo in a Sri Lankan Air Force aircraft which arrived at the Ratmalana Airport at 1715 hours (local time). The policemen were abducted during a terrorist attack on the Mandativu Island and the Pannai Police Complex, last January. Nine soldiers who were also kidnapped during the same period remain to be released. [Text] [Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1415 GMT 13 Aug 87] /9599

POLICE ARREST 300 FOR VIOLENCE--Police have arrested about 300 persons in the Matara District for alleged involvement in the recent spate of violence. S.P. [superintendent of police] Matara, Al-Haj M.S.M. Misan, said that more than 50 written submissions about those suspected of involvement had already been received. He added that informants will be given full protection and their anonymity strictly observed. One hundred thirty-four public institutions and 91 private establishments had been damaged in the Matara District. Steps are being taken to institute legal proceedings against those involved in damaging the property. Meanwhile, the people have handed over about 700 firearms to the police for safe keeping. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Aug 87] /9599

CSO: 4600/290

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